Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-94-040 *1 March 1994*

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Cuba

Havana Reports NATO Announcement of Downed Serbian Aircraft

FL2802154094 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1502 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Four Serbian aircraft have been shot down by U.S. F-16 fighters today near Banja Luka in northwestern Bosnia, in keeping with a UN Security Council resolution that forbids any and all flights in the skies over Bosnia, according to a NATO military spokesman.

This is the first time NATO planes have opened fire in Bosnia, after the Serb planes ignored the F-16s' orders to land. NATO planes have been patrolling Bosnia daily since April 1993, with a view to enforcing respect of UN Security Council Resolution No. 816, which forbids any and all flights in Bosnian airspace, according to the spokesman.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [word indistinct] said all humanitarian flights to Sarajevo have been suspended, as has all movement toward areas controlled by the Serbs.

General Colome Ibarra Issues Minint Forum Guidelines

FL2502154594 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Feb 94

[Text] The widespread implementation of solutions to problems is an Interior Ministry [Minint] priority in 1994 in preparation for the Ninth Science and Technology Forum. The guidelines issued by Army Corps General Abelardo Colome Ibarra, a member of the Politburo and head of the Minint, calls for increasing the number of proposals to promote efficiency in defense tasks and help improve operational response time, as well as promote favorable welfare conditions for the troops.

Officer on Compatibility of Self-Sufficiency, Preparedness

FL2802203894 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Interview with Colonel Filiberto Rondon by journalist Estela Guerra; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Guerra] Everyone knows about the work the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] is doing to guarantee people better living conditions, bearing in mind that this is the fundamental factor that guarantees the success of the different missions entrusted to the various armies. In order to get more details about the work being done in the FAR in that connection, I am talking to Colonel Filiberto Rondon, second in command of the Western Army Rear Services.

Colonel, I have had the opportunity to tour this great Western Army unit. I have noticed that many of the things done here are things that lie within the realm of many centers, of many state organizations. Why-...[pauses] what is the basic reason that these solutions are sought here, and that effective solutions to the needs of the population—the soldiers and the population in general—are found here?

[Rondon] We have instructions from our minister, who is the head of the Army, to seek solutions; and we have been told that we must guarantee, with fewer resources, the sacred duty of defending the fatherland. Therefore, we are obliged to seek solutions. We draw our inspiration from the thoughts of Jose Marti, who said that if there are capable men, there are no difficult times; and that difficult conditions and situations must be given practical solutions.

That is why, given this situation, without abandoning its main tasks—such as being combat-ready and willing to repel aggressions, preparing the theater of military operations, and preparing our troops ideologically—our Armed Forces also...[pauses] the self-sufficiency plans too are a main part of our tasks. As I said earlier, in order to improve the living conditions of our troops independently of the resource limitations, we have been obliged to seek solutions that will allow our troops to be in both mental and physical shape to carry out their missions. And we feel that—and you have seen it in this tour—the results are there. They are not just words. We have already obtained results. We can speak of results obtained in 1993, 1992, and 1991. We have been trying to keep our Armed Forces from being a burden on our working population, and trying to lighten that burden progressively.

Unlike other organizations, we ourselves cannot shut down a unit. We cannot send soldiers home. We are obliged to seek solutions. And I think that that has really forced us. Moreover, above all, we have drawn inspiration from our Armed Forces minister, who demands that we maintain, despite resource limitations, a high level of combat readiness and a high degree of capability to respond to any enemy aggression.

[Guerra] That was Colonel Filiberto Rondon, second in command of the Western Army Rear Services, who has discussed the work the FAR is doing to improve the living and working conditions of the workers and the Armed Forces' civilian workers.

Authorities Acknowledge Increase in Self-Employment

PA2802214594 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1736 GMT 25 Feb 94

[Text] Havana, 25 Feb (DPA)—Today, Cuban authorities admitted that given the critical situation the island is enduring, private work has increased. Authorities confirmed that right now 141,000 persons are self-employed. Granma, the official newspaper, has said

"this is not a new situation." The newspaper affirms that it has been necessary to assign certain tasks to private individuals in every age.

According to GRANMA, under normal economic conditions, this type of work does not have to be associated with the acquisition of wealth or negative things, like deviating resources or involvement with the black market as occurs now. A new law approved in September 1993 authorized independent work and expanded the number of jobs Cubans can perform independently under the supervision of the state and after paying a fee to almost 150.

According to a government source consulted by DPA, Cuban authorities are working on a document which will regulate violations of the Independent Work Law. It will upgrade official controls and in this way violations or alterations of the law will be avoided.

Since the law was approved, many vendors of artisan products and food have emerged, especially around businesses with services that are paid for in dollars. The most amazing services, such as bicycle parking lots, are being offered. Restaurants, coffee shops, and discotheques, whose services are invariably paid for in dollars, have also opened.

A clandestine restaurant of the type popularly known as "Paladares", which had been functioning in the Havana neighborhood of Vedado for months was closed recently by the police. They raided the site and detained the owner for a few hours. This is reportedly the first public case of a clandestine restaurant being closed by authorities after a state radio station warned that these establishments would be closed as of January.

Cigarette Industry Stabilizing, Meeting Demand

FL0103004194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Adolfo Diaz, vice president of the Council of Ministers, said that the productive results achieved by the cigarette industry is leading it toward stabilization since the factories are close to reaching the expected levels for 1994, aimed at satisfying the national demand for the product. In an extensive communique printed in the TRABAJADORES newspaper, Diaz referred to the increased number of smokers among the Cuban population and stressed that the stable production and sale of cigarettes not only satisfies the consumers' needs, but represents a considerable contribution to the national economy, which is suffering the consequences of excess currency. Adolfo Diaz was hesitant to predict when the sale of cigarettes would be released, considering the many factors that would make such a prediction inaccurate.

15-Year Jail Sentence Sought for 'Terrorism'

PA0103024694 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Mar 94

[From the "Evening Information Review" newscast]

[Text] The Havana Prosecutor's Office has asked that Marcelo Garcia Ruvalcaba be sentenced to 15 years in prison for terrorism. He is a Mexican citizen who resides in the United States. During the trial held today in Havana City, Garcia Ruvalcaba admitted smuggling tear gas grenades and equipment to print counterrevolutionary literature into the country at the request of individuals linked to the paramilitary group Alpha 66. The defendant has lived in the United States for 24 years and worked as a Continental Airlines supervisor at the California airport. The Mexican citizen established a relationship with Cuban photographer Jose Miranda Acosta, 45, and together they tried to place explosives on airplanes parked in Havana's Jose Marti International Airport. The Prosecutor's Office also requested a 15-year prison term for Miranda Acosta.

Dominican Republic

Minister Warns of 'Social Eruption' in Haiti

FL0103003494 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2030 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] In declarations to the press, Dominican Vice Foreign Minister Fabio Herrera stated that the UN has given permission to the Dominican Government to sell domestic cooking gas to Haiti. He went on to say that this product is not included in the trade embargo imposed by the UN and the Organization of American States on the Haitian military regime which overthrew Jean-Bertrand Aristide in September 1991. Every month, the Dominican Republic sends (?650,000) pounds of beef, pork, chicken, rice, and other food products to Haiti, as well as gasoline, a fuel (?denied) by the embargo. Herrera stated that it was in the best interest of the Dominican Republic to attenuate [atenuar] the embargo because the worsening situation in Haiti is one of the factors that causes Haitians to seek refuge in the Dominican Republic. He warned of a possible social eruption [estallido].

Cabral Denies Violating Oil Embargo

PA0103041994 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0038 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Report by Ramon Melenciano]

[Text] Santo Domingo, 28 Feb (EFE)—A report from the Haitian Commission for Justice and Peace, which says that the Dominican Government is violating the UN embargo against the Haitian coupist military leaders, is a false accusation, Dominican Deputy Foreign Minister Fabio Herrera Cabral told EFE on 28 February.

Herrera Cabral said that the Dominican Republic is complying with the UN sanctions and only sends "humanitarian aid" to Haiti. He added that the accusation has been made at a time when Haitian Catholic bishops are trying to obtain UN permission to transport fuel from Dominican territory to face the critical situation in Haiti.

The Haitian Commission for Justice and Peace published a report in Port-au-Prince today saying Dominican and Haitian soldiers are involved in fuel trafficking to Haiti, which is facing a blockade since the ousting of Constitutional President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in September 1991.

Herrera Cabral said the report is false and contradicts a request from Haitian bishops and civilian assistance organizations demanding permission for the entrance of more products to reduce the misery in Haiti, which has increased with the embargo. Herrera Cabral deplored that the "commission" should dedicate its efforts to supervising the border between the two countries to verify if the Dominican Government is complying or not with the embargo.

He added that the commission should dedicate its efforts to plans that will make it possible to improve the calamitous situation afflicting the poor people of Haiti, who are living in misery. "They are wasting their time, because we (the Dominican Government) are complying with the sanctions and they should dedicate their time to fight poverty," Herrera Cabral told EFE.

Herrera Cabral, however, did not rule out the possibility that "some gallons of fuel" could cross the border, but not with the government's permission. Herrera Cabral reminded the Haitian Commission for Justice and Peace that last week the Dominican Armed Forces Ministry punished an officer involved in fuel trafficking to Haiti and that vigilance at the border is constant and strict. He reiterated that he does not understand the reason for the "false reports at a time when Catholic bishops are requesting aid."

Today, the Dominican Foreign Ministry announced that the UN Security Council and the UN Sanctions Committee authorized the country to send food, propane gas, agricultural products, and other staples to the Haitian people, within the concept of "humanitarian aid" permitted by that international organization. In announcing the UN authorization, Herrera Cabral explained that the Dominican Republic will continue implementing the embargo that seeks the return of democracy to Haiti.

In its protest, the Haitian commission also accused the United Nations of permitting the violations and not supervising the Dominican Republic's compliance with the sanctions.

Herrera Cabral said that the United Nations are aware that the Dominican Republic is complying with the embargo, and rejected a recommendation that the international organization should control the Dominican-Haitian border.

Haiti

Dominican Republic Accused of Violating Oil Embargo

PA2802235094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2140 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Report by Herold Jean-Francois]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 28 Feb (EFE)—The Justice and Peace Commission of Haiti, assigned to the Catholic Church in Gonaives Municipality, accused the Dominican Republic of violating the oil embargo decreed by the UN Security Council. In a report published in the Haitian capital today, the commission assigned to the diocese of Gonaives said Dominican and Haitian soldiers cooperate in transporting gasoline across the border that divides both countries.

On 24 February, an investigative committee of the Justice and Peace Commission saw movement of fuel contraband at the northeast border, at the Haitian city of Quanaminthe, near the Dominican city of Dajabon. A large number of uniformed Dominican soldiers were seen participating in the operation, the religious organization reported.

The commission said the soldiers, in front of the civilians, direct the transfer of an impressive motorcade of freight and personnel, who transport the fuel down the local river. According to the organization, nearly 250 carts, each one carrying three barrels of gasoline, are transported each day in 15 trips across the border.

The organization added that the Haitian military takes charge of the fuel once it enters Haitian territory. The Justice and Peace Commission said an area has been set up near the border to store the fuel.

The commission regrets that the UN Security Council has not denounced this situation. "The United Nations has not adopted any measures to supervise and enforce the oil embargo at the Dominican-Haitian border, which, as a consequence, is prolonging the crisis and at the same time strengthening the coupists' economic and political power," the commission said. The United Nations, after the 1993 efforts to restore Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power as the constitutional president of Haiti failed, decreed an oil embargo against Haiti.

Meanwhile, today, the U.S. Coast Guard repatriated 141 Haitian refugees, who tried to abandon the country in a boat, which was located near the Windward Passage between Cuba and Haiti. Since 1 January, U.S. Coast Guard ships have repatriated 302 Haitian refugees.

Sources Say U.S. May Let Oil Tanker Break Blockade

PA0103045094 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0301 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Report by Edwige Balutansky]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 28 Feb (NOTIMEX)—The U.S. Government, which is disgruntled with deposed Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, may let an oil tanker pass through the blockade in the next few days, sources close to the coupist military offices said today. "It would not be surprising. The U.S. has clearly shown it does not intend to exert further pressure on the military. It has never sought to corner them," the official told an international news agency.

The UN Security Council decided to apply an oil and arms embargo against Haiti last October in order to force the military officers who toppled Aristide with a coup d'etat in 1991 to return to the democratic system.

"Pressure exerted on the Dominican Republic reportedly worsened the effects of the embargo; instead, they are seeking that Aristide share power with the coupists and decree an amnesty for the offenses perpetrated these last 28 months," the source noted. The lack of controls on the Dominican border allows entry into the country of sufficient oil so that traffic is nearly normal.

After conducting a study of the northern part of the border between both nations, the Justice and Peace Human Rights Commission of the Catholic Church reported that more than 66,000 gallons of gasoline are brought daily into Haiti with the complicity of Dominican soldiers. In Haiti, this "illegal" traffic is totally controlled by the military, who obtain revenues of 20,625 gourdes, some $7,392, for each truck transporting hydrocarbons. The Justice and Peace Commission regretted that these open violations are not sanctioned by the United Nations.

Meanwhile, parliamentarians opposed to the return of Aristide to this Caribbean island denied Monday that they want to install a new government. They termed this information on the issue as "rumors." Senator Bernard Sansaricq, spokesman for this group, declared last week that "all the institutions are ready to support the Parliament's initiative to install a new junta, only pending the persons who will form it. The Army cannot play that card; it has not received the green light from the United States," a source close to the military commented.

The group of anti-Aristide lawmakers, who staged "a coup d'etat" against the Senate's Board of Directors, announced last week the visit of Army Chief General Raoul Cedras to the Parliament to take the opportunity to present the new government. Despite having waited in vain for Cedras, who according to sources close to the Parliament supported this initiative in the beginning, Sansaricq would insist on Monday that a new administration be named.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Coast Guard today repatriated 141 Haitian—boat people [preceding two words in English]—who tried to reach Florida, United States, in boats. Officials of the local Red Cross announced that 40 more Haitians will be repatriated tomorrow.

Sansaricq Advocates Formation of Temporary Government

FL2802204894 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Passages within quotation marks in Creole]

[Text] Senator Bernard Sansaricq, president of the other Senate office, thinks the resolution of the Haitian crisis must inevitably go through the formation of a temporary government within the scope of Article 111 of the Constitution of March 1987. Sansaricq asserts that it will be necessary, sooner or later, to end up with Article 148 or Article 149.

[Begin Sansaricq recording] "We are working on the solution so we can establish a government that will operate under Article 111 of the Constitution." Let me explain what I mean: "We cannot go straight to Article 148 of the Constitution" because, (?although) there has been a resigning prime minister for two and a half months, President Aristide has not deemed it necessary to appoint a new prime minister.

"This is a problem. We cannot implement Article 148 because the prime minister should be appointed by President Aristide. We cannot implement Article 149 precisely because the parliament restored Mr. Aristide as president of the Republic on 16 June 1993. So, this makes it impossible for us to implement Article 149."

We must nevertheless [changes thought] As the situation must be untangled, we must have a temporary government until we can settle on the implementation of either Article 148 or Article 149 of the Constitution. [end recording]

Interviewed on Ad Hoc Government

FL0103003294 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Passages within quotation marks in Creole]

[Excerpts] In Port-au-Prince we are moving toward the possible formation of an ad hoc government. According to Senator Bernard Sansaricq, the conditions have been met for the establishment of such a government. Sen. Sansaricq, in a Radio Metropole interview, cited Article 111 of the Constitution to put an end to the vacuum created by the resignation of the Robert Malval government. According to Bernard Sansaricq, all institutions agree on the necessity of forming an ad hoc government. He nevertheless spoke of divergences on the choice of personalities to comprise this government.

[Begin recording] [Sansaricq] "The country has been at the point of death for two and a half months, even longer than that. But for two months, specifically, there has been no management from the executive. So far, President Aristide has refused to appoint a new prime minister. The Senate of the Republic especially.... [changes thought] We cannot wait around for the president to perhaps have a dream one night, then say the next morning: Well, I am going to appoint a prime minister in Haiti. No, there must be.... [changes thought] We are joint holders of the national sovereignty. We must do something and we are going to do something in compliance with Article 111 of the Constitution, which reads as follows: The legislative power makes laws on all subjects of public interest.

"One does not have the right to hinder a nation as this one has been hindered. One does not have the right.... President Aristide should really understand that after the resignation of the prime minister, he was duty-bound to immediately appoint another prime minister and to submit his name to parliament for ratification. He did not do it.

"One can see there is an omnilevel entanglement. [passage omitted] Things must be taken in hand. This is why the Senate of the Republic, the new office of the Senate of the Republic, has taken the matter in hand. We declared as early as 21 February that we would sit, permanently. We wish to force the institutions to follow us and together, to form a government of public safety that will be a very provisional ad hoc government until we can decide whether we are going to implement Art. 148 or Art. 149. But we cannot let this country drift, we cannot let the people die [corrects himself] we cannot let the country continue to die, as has been the case. [passage omitted]

"I think we are going to find the support necessary to accomplish the formation of an ad hoc temporary government. I again use the word, 'temporary,' until we can decide to implement Art. 148 or 149 of the Constitution. [passage omitted] I believe there are lucid forces in this country. The Committee of Action for National Reconciliation is one of these forces that gathered 48 organizations together to support these ideas. They also agree with the establishment of an ad hoc government. I believe this global idea is more or less accepted by all institutions in Haiti."

[Reporter Clarens Renois] "Did you discuss this idea with the Army, with General Cedras?"

[Sansaricq] "Personally, I did not. But I know others who did discuss it with the Army."

[Renois] "Would the Army today agree to support an ad hoc government?" [Sansaricq] "I think the Army is very aware that the situation is very serious and that we must end up in the formation of a new government. I cannot speak on behalf of the Haitian Army and I do not want to speak on behalf of the Haitian Army. I want to speak on behalf of the Senate of the Republic. Of course, we are in consultation and we will remain in consultation with the Armed Forces and all public forces in this country. I must tell you that everybody agrees that we must reach something." [end recording] [passage omitted]

OCL Advocates Formation of Military Junta

FL2802210294 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] The Capois Lamort Organization [OCL] of Franck Pierre asks the parliamentarians to make a ruling, to choose one of three resolutions resulting from the congresses and conferences held in the country recently—that from the Committee of Actions for National Reconciliation, that from the Group of Citizens of the Greater North, and that from the private sector—in order to achieve a happy way out of the crisis.

[Begin Pierre recording, in Creole] We in the OCL ask all conscientious and nationalistic parliamentarians to choose one of these three resolutions that can (?contribute) to the welfare of the Haitian people. We in the OCL ask that the Haitian Army—in the event that the parliament cannot do its job of choosing one of the three resolutions—go into action and form a military junta. That military junta should (?direct) the National Palace so it can manage the Haitian crisis and lead the country properly until elections are held. [end recording]

Parent Demands Aristide's Return From Washington

FL2802211494 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] In a statement dated 24 February, Senator Jean-Jacques Clark Parent has written: Since 30 September 1991, an abnormal situation has been developing in the country. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, head of state legally elected during the 16 December 1990 elections, is not in Haiti. He is in Washington, the capital of another sovereign country. Yet, until now, he is acknowledged as president of the Republic of Haiti by all national and international authorities including the parliament, the Haitian Army, the churches, the private sector, the United Nations, the OAS, and so forth, says Sen. Parent.

The question he has put to the Haitian Army, the parliament, the United Nations, the OAS, and the powers called Friends of Haiti is: Why is Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the president of the Republic, not in Haiti today? Is he imprisoned in Washington as Toussaint Louverture was in Fort Joux [located in the Jura Mountains in France where Haitian General Toussaint Louverture died on 7 April 1803 after he had attempted to free Haiti from the French]? Only the United States can answer this question through the words of its President, Bill Clinton. At any rate, so far, the president of the Republic, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, is not at the National Palace of Port-au-Prince, he adds.

As for me, I say no, because this is an affront to all Haitians no matter whether they are rich or poor, black or mulatto, military or civilian. Is that what the so-called civilized people call the new world order? If so, is logic no longer the universal way to reason soundly, because I have a contrary opinion. Sen. Jean-Jacques Clark Parent further says: I therefore urge General Cedras to resign, as agreed in the Governors Island agreement; and I suggest that the Haitian Army, the institution intended to guarantee the safety of lives and property in the country, form within the next 72 hours a high-ranking civilian-military delegation charged with going to Washington in order to look for the president of the Republic, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and bring him [back] to the National Palace of Port-au-Prince so he can carry out his duties as president of the Republic under the security of the Haitian Armed Forces until his mandate expires so as to put an end to this unbearable situation gnawing at our country and it will be justice, concludes the statement of Jean-Jacques Clark Parent, senator of the Republic.

Parent has sent this statement to Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Bill Clinton, the OAS, the United Nations, the governments of Haiti's four friendly countries, the U.S. Congress, the parliamentarians of the 45th legislature, the Army, all ambassadors accredited to Haiti, Pope John Paul II, the Haitian Episcopal Conference, the Association of Haitian Protestants, the members of the Haitian Chamber of Commerce and Industries, the members of the judiciary, and the press.

Bishop Ruiz on Chiapas Negotiations Progress

PA2802143894 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Report by correspondent Francisco Rubio; from the "Good Morning From Mexico" newscast]

[Text] The bishop of San Cristobal de las Casas, Samuel Ruiz Garcia, has announced that the draft documents that will be entitled Commitments for an Honorable Peace, Commitment for Peace, and Peace Declaration, are in their final phase.

He denied that national issues such as democracy and modification of constitutional Article 27, which deals with agrarian laws, have delayed the negotiations for peace.

[Begin Ruiz recording] There are 34 commitments. Two of these commitments are not binding. They have to do with democracy. From the beginning it was a known fact that they do not form part of an agreement, strictly speaking, but that they are an opinion made known to the national community. It is expected that this opinion should have an impact on this community. [end recording]

Ruiz said that some 10 or 12 points are yet to be negotiated before an agreement is reached. Of these points, four or five are of secondary importance.

[Begin Ruiz recording] The others have a certain level of importance but because of linguistic difficulties they are still being discussed. They are not fundamental for reaching an agreement. We could say that a significant agreement has been reached already. [end recording]

More than 72 hours after the doors of the peace cathedral were closed—something that spawned speculation that the peace talks had been blocked—Bishop Samuel Ruiz said that neither the commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas nor the Zapatist National Liberation Army have been intransigent.

[Begin Ruiz recording] So far there has been intransigence neither in the discussions of the agreements that are to be approved nor in the position of either side. [end recording]

This information was provided during a news conference that Bishop Samuel Ruiz held alone with reporters. He explained that the final text of the agreements could me made known either Tuesday [1 March] evening or Wednesday [2 March] morning.

Bishop Ruiz Makes Statement

PA0103043994 Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 28 Feb 94 p 5

["Stenographic version" of statement by Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia to unidentified domestic and foreign reporters at the San Cristobal de las Casas Cathedral on 27 February]

[Text] Good evening to all the domestic and international sisters and brothers of the press, radio, and television media. Events that occur outside the discussion table influence differently those who are sitting at this table and on those who are abroad. Although we cannot say news has been lacking, it has certainly influenced the mood of the talks. For example, the news on what has been happening in Altamirano has influenced our work. Even if those events would not have occurred and we would not have known of the steps taken to achieve greater peace, it would have been difficult for the parties at the table to continue to progress without feeling there was a disturbing external pressure.

Fortunately, after steps were taken, good sense prevailed. Although several incidents occurred again, they did not seriously affect our work, much less the sincerity with which we are all acting. The incidents did not hinder us from making progress on topics of greater complexity, which, as we admitted in the joint communique issued by the mediator, the EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army], and the [peace] commissioner yesterday, present certain difficulties.

The current difficulties are not, as could be thought,—characteristically I have always spoken very truthfully—the contents of the agreements being discussed for later approval or the lack of flexibility on one side or another—such an attitude has not existed up to now—but in the inherent complexity of the linguistic and cultural translation. That is, the complicated task of reading the text of the proposals and understanding the terms used in the wording of a text. The mediator has to say that he too has had difficulty in this respect because there are terms in our language that vary in meaning according to the level or field in which they are being used. A word used in computer science has an entirely different meaning in regular usage.

Terms can be difficult, especially those that are abstract or have legal implications, which we do not use regularly, but which those who are advising us, at our request, do use regularly. To understand the terms and implications of a proposal, to make an accurate translation and find the corresponding words in the cultural field, and to assimilate all this to explain it to each linguistic group—they have to go through exactly the same steps to be able to assimilate them and later take them to the groups in the four linguistic regions—has prompted a complicated situation that computer techniques have not been able to alleviate.

We can say, however—we would have wanted to say it in a more impressive manner and with everyone present for your satisfaction—that we are currently in the definitive consensus phase. We have discussed almost all of the document, which I will witness the day this ends. We always say it will be soon but there are the differences between the pace of western time and the Mayan culture, which is much slower.

We could provide abundant examples of the complexity of this job, but instead of saying what I have already said, citing examples, perhaps we could preview the structure of the agreements themselves, practically all of which have already been discussed. Some 10 or 12 points remain to be discussed; some of them, four or five, are of secondary importance. Others have a certain relevance but there are language problems to be resolved. These points are being discussed but they are not fundamental in the agreement. We could say a significant agreement has been reached.

The document will have the following points or subheadings: a preliminary set of articles or statements, which will be called Commitments for a Worthy Peace in Chiapas. There are 34 commitments. Two of these commitments do not include resolutions and have to do with democracy. It was difficult, since we knew from the beginning the commitments were not part of an agreement, strictly speaking, but they are opinions divulged to the national community and we certainly hope they will have an impact on the agreements.

The drafting of these two agreements, which are statements and do not include resolutions, is already finished. The agreements containing resolutions have to do with the different problems or demands made by the EZLN, to which an overall response has been given since the first day and to which solutions will be found gradually, step by step.

A few days ago, Subcommander Marcos and the commissioner said what percentage of the agreement points had been discussed. Once these commitments are made, naturally, we will reach the peace agreements. These agreements are made up of two parts: Mexican Government agreements and EZLN agreements, and include the military's role in this peace process, the amnesty that must be sought, the specific manner in which it must be implemented, and a final commitment to comply with the peace agreement. These two steps, commitments for a worthy peace, and peace agreements lead us to a third and final point, which is a peace declaration.

This peace declaration, already formulated and agreed to in its basic terms by mutual consent, together with all the sets of previous documents and agreements, as well as said commitments, will be presented here when the logistical part is completed, and each copy of that set of agreements that is picked up will be authenticated by me.

The necessary copies will be delivered to each party—EZLN 19 copies—and the team of the peace commissioner and myself (will be delivered) as many copies as necessary, authenticated, that is signed by me as was the text of the original agreed upon. Both parties will present the accords to the rank and file or grass-roots structures and corresponding levels so that, after the established time, which evidently will not be long, they will return to this city to make peace in what we hope will be a solemn and to some degree magnificent manner, because the signing of these accords pertains to the entire country.

What the parties will do is to explain to their corresponding membership the implications and reasons why specific or concrete points were accepted.

For the peace commissioner, there is one difficulty that involves convincing each agency that they are part of the execution of the accords, and for the EZLN it involves distributing the document to 19 different groups, communities, in the language of each group.

Yesterday, for instance, both sides worked nearly unrelentingly. The EZLN representatives did not get much sleep; they went to bed at 0300 and had to be up and working by 0700.

The peace commissioner and also the mediator, with their respective teams, were also working on the preparation of the three agreed fundamental ideas. They are in the process of drafting the final document to make the definitive assimilation [asimilacion definitiva] already agreed upon, with the exception of eight points which, as I said, are the ones that have not been definitively addressed. This will permit them to later get to the final part.

It is a matter of explaining what the parties here have agreed to in this lengthy process of drafting documents and receiving the definitive support of all EZLN sectors, after the final signing.

That is the process we wished to describe to you.

Tomorrow, as opposed to what one might expect, given that today is Sunday, will be a day in which there will not be a news conference. All the infrastructure and logistics will be devoted to producing a document pertaining to issues already approved, and from that moment on, perhaps some of the things that must be considered a regulation of different infrastructures or commissions that have appeared as necessary and that have to be implemented.

This is what we intended to convey to you, regretting that the pace of work has not allowed the peace commissioner or EZLN representatives to be present here today.

Consequently, as we said earlier, there will be no news conference tomorrow nor Tuesday evening nor Wednesday morning. We hope that the work will be definitely completed. This will be reported in due time.

Thank you very much for your kindness and understanding.

Marcos: Peace 'Far Away'

PA2802221994 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2018 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas State (Mexico), 28 Feb (EFE)—Peace in Chiapas is far away because the government's answers are still pieces of paper, Subcommander Marcos, leader of the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN], stated today. "The government's answers are still a bunch of papers, and

whether it will abide by them remains to be seen. Peace is far away; there are only promises. We still have to see what the communities have to say," said Marcos. According to Marcos, the EZLN is not ready to sign peace.

He stated that until now the EZLN talks with Manuel Camacho Solis, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas, have been limited to a dialogue in which "he has responded to our 34 demands, but none of them have been negotiated." He said the 19 EZLN delegates, who participated in the talks, "have not said if we agree with the commissioner's 34 proposals; our leaders and grassroots communities must say it."

Subcommander Marcos said the Zapatists do not understand the government's answers "because they clash with our languages and culture. It is impossible to go past the negotiation phase because we still do not understand; we have to translate their answers into our perception of the world." He stated the San Cristobal de las Casas talks are close to an agreement, which will later be discussed at the grassroots level, and that the first round "will conclude with a document of consultation," and after that peace will come.

He recognized Camacho Solis' sincerity in the talks but wondered to what extent his stance represents the government's. "Camacho Solis is telling us what is possible and what is not; in some ways he is another mediator." He said there is no agreement on democracy, one of the chief demands of the Zapatists, at the talks because the government has refused to discuss national topics. "The government has refused to discuss democracy, refused to discuss amending Article 27, democracy, or of recognizing the EZLN as a belligerent force, electoral reform, justice, changes in the economic policy, and reforming the Free Trade Agreement," he indicated.

The top leader of the EZLN reiterated that if President Carlos Salinas de Gortari does not resign, then there ought to be "an electoral change so it is the civilian sector of society that controls" the 21 August elections.

The EZLN has not thought of surrendering its weapons because "a lot of history remains to be covered. Surrendering of our weapons is far away, perhaps 500 years away," Marcos stated. For him, remaining armed constitutes a guarantee the government promises will be kept. He said the Catholic Church has always opposed Indians taking up arms, even in its role in Chiapas, it has favored" a "collective sentiment of community in the Christian sense."

Marcos Says Government Not Responding

PA0103025694 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 28 Feb 94 p 8

[Report by Victor Torres, Humberto Rios, and Juan de Dios Garcia]

[Text] San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, 28 Feb—Subcommander Marcos has stated the delays at the negotiating table are due to the lack of response from the federal government to eight points of national interest related to democracy, amendments to the electoral law and the Criminal Code, aspects of the ownership and use of land, and respect for and a new relationship with Indian communities.

The EZLN [Zapatist National Liberation Army] representative commented that so far there are "just pieces of paper" at the negotiating table. For that reason, he expressed his certainty that this phase will conclude without specific agreements. Those pieces of paper, he affirmed, do not yet give security or guarantees to Indians that they will live well or feed themselves.

He said those points will have a bearing on the future of Mexico and noted the EZLN is not prepared to lay down its weapons, since it is certain that the pacification process in Chiapas is not simple. The signing of a peace accord, he added, will not be fast or easy to attain, and many days will pass in order to obtain satisfactory responses to the proposals by the EZLN General Command.

During a private meeting with foreign correspondents, the subcommander felt all the demands on the list submitted to Manuel Camacho Solis, commissioner for peace and reconciliation in Chiapas, can be resolved by the federal authorities with a total commitment and interest in improving the conditions in which Mexico's Indians live.

Foreign Secretary on U.S. Immigration Laws

PA2802154294 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Report by Enrique Tellaeche from Tijuana, Baja California; from the "Good Morning From Mexico" newscast]

[Text] Mexican Foreign Secretary Manuel Tello Macias said in Tijuana that there is still time for the U.S. Government to reconsider some antimigratory measures to be implemented in 1994 and 1995 within the framework of a plan presented by U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno.

At the conclusion of a Mexican Foreign Service meeting in preparation for the binational meeting with the United States to take place on 7 March in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, Tello Macias said that there is the possibility that some measures announced by the neighbor to the north could be set aside. He rejected accusations made Saturday by Chicanos, according to whom the Foreign Secretariat spends more resources and time on organizing the commemoration of holidays than on providing consular protection.

Tello Macias said that violence against any single Mexican citizen will be considered an act of violence against Mexico's integrity. The man responsible for the country's foreign policy said he does not know of any plans to construct a barbwire fence parallel to the metal fence that already exists along the border.

Guatemala

Army Confirms Support for President, Democracy

PA2802195494 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1556 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Guatemala City, 28 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan Army has confirmed its support for President Ramiro de Leon Carpio and the democratic process and asserts in a communique released today that the head of state has preserved the "apolitical nature" of the Armed Forces.

The Army denied that the president had intended to implicate it in political-electoral activities, as General Jose Luis Quilo, the dismissed chief of the General Staff of National Defense, asserted on Friday. "No effort has been made to manipulate the Army, and the president has not handed down instructions to influence the Civil Defense Volunteer Committees," the communique underscored.

Quilo accused de Leon of having asked Army commanders to exert pressure on the civilian patrols so they would vote in favor of the constitutional reforms during the popular referendum on 30 January.

The president and Defense Minister General Mario Rene Enriquez denied the allegations, and they both pointed out that Quilo's remarks reflected his resentment at being dismissed from his post. The Army says the general's assertions were distorted and today confirmed its "total respect for the country's institutionalism and its support for the current government." The Armed Forces also urged every sector of the country to intensify its efforts in favor of peace and national reconciliation.

Meanwhile, the defense minister announced that if Quilo insists on leveling accusations against the president and Army he could be taken to court.

Communique Issued

PA0103012594 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 28 Feb 94 p 50

[Communique issued by the Guatemalan Army in Guatemala City on 27 February]

[Text] The Guatemalan Army reports to the national and international community:

1. That the constitutional president of the republic and commander general of the Army has preserved the apolitical nature of the armed institution since the start of this mandate on 6 June 1993.

2. That, consequently, the president of Guatemala has never tried to involve the Army in political-electoral activities such as the recent popular consultation, and has thus fully respected the duties that the Constitution of the republic assigned to the Armed Forces.

3. That, in the same way there has been no presidential attempt to manipulate the Army, the president has not issued orders to influence the Civilian Self-Defense Voluntary Committees either.

4. That, in rejecting any claim contrary to the aforementioned, the Army is reaffirming its absolute respect for the country's institutions and its support for the current constitutional government of the Republic headed by Ramiro De Leon Carpio.

5. That, in view of the need to promote the highest degree of well-being for the Guatemalan people, the Army urges all segments of the population to intensify efforts in favor of harmony, peace, and national reconciliation.

[Issued] Guatemala City, 27 February 1994.

"Fiftieth anniversary of the revolution of 20 October 1944."

Menchu Calls for Withdrawal of U.S. Troops

PA0103011794 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 26 Feb 94 p 12

[Text] Rigoberta Menchu, the 1992 Nobel Prize peace laureate, stated in Geneva recently, that the [U.S.] military presence in Guatemala was detrimental to the people of her country. She, thus, asked President Ramiro de Leon Carpio not to maintain U.S. troops in the country.

Menchu won the coveted prize a year ago. At that time, the then government of President Jorge Serrano Elias concocted a plot to stop her from receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, although it was the first time a Guatemalan citizen received the peace prize. Writer Miguel Angel Asturias won the Nobel Prize in literature a few years ago.

Nevertheless, Jorge Serrano's government refused to recognize Miss Menchu as the most worthy representative of the country and managed to get the important award to remain in Mexico, where it still remains.

Rigoberto Menchu gave President Ramiro de Leon Carpio her personal support but withdrew it a few months later. She alleged the current president had let down the Guatemalan people and withdrew her support. She continues to observe events in the country.

For this reason, when she was in Geneva recently, Menchu reported that U.S. soldiers had established several camps and were carrying out joint military operations in the country. She said: "The U.S. Government has decided to send thousands of soldiers to interfere in Guatemalan politics. We are denouncing this and ask the Guatemalan president to immediately withdraw the U.S. troops."

UN Sets Peace Talks To Begin Between 3-7 March

PA0103011694 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 26 Feb 94 p 13

[Text] The next round of Guatemalan peace talks will take place between 3 and 7 March in Mexico City. An AP dispatch reported that according to UN officials the main topics to be discussed will be human rights and the end of hostilities. A UN statement said UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali set the dates for the next meeting after consulting with the Guatemalan government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) guerrillas.

On 14 February, a Guatemalan Government official said the negotiations between the government and the leftist guerrillas could produce a peace agreement by the end of the year. Three years of negotiations for peace in Guatemala have yielded limited results so far. Of an 11-point plan prepared in 1991, only partial results have been achieved on one subject: the country's democratization. The next round of talks will center on the human rights issue and the end of hostilities, according to the sources.

The guerrilla war in Guatemala has already lasted 34 years and claimed 130,000 lives. The debate about the creation of a commission for investigating violations of human rights has been a serious obstacle in previous negotiation efforts.

Defense Minister Rejects Belizean Ultimatum

PA0103000794 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 27 Feb 94 p 3

[Report by Carlos Catanaza Rosales]

[Text] Yesterday, Guatemalan Defense Minister General Mario Rene Enriquez asserted the Guatemalan Army will not accept any type of Belizean interference in the country's sovereignty and, even less, that they intimidate feilow Guatemalan citizens. The top military chief said he fully agreed with Foreign Minister Maritza Ruiz de Vielman, who rejected the [Belizean] imposed ultimatum on Guatemalan families, as initial investigations, carried out by military personnel under the commander of Military Zone No. 23 in Peten, indicated.

Commenting on the 15-day limit given to Dolores municipality residents to abandon their lands, Enriquez emphatically stated: "This is totally unjustifiable because the Belizean territory is still in dispute. We hope some day this situation will be solved in a positive manner. Currently, there are no clear borders, however, and the Belizeans are wrong when they say those families are in Belizean territory."

Enriquez said he had ordered Gen. Marco Antonio Gonzalez Taracena, the national defense command staff chief, to attend a meeting with Belizean and UK authorities to maintain peace and harmony in the area but would prefer it if the threats against the Guatemalans are not confirmed.

He reported that the Military Zone No. 23 commander has the responsibility of investigating and talking to the alleged aggressors in this case. The commander, however, must also coordinate with the foreign ministry to avoid intimidations, Enriquez added. Army Ready to Support Them [subhead]

Gen. Enriquez said: "We are ready to support and come to the aid of the Guatemalan people in that area." He said meetings with Belizean and UK authorities have been taking place prior to the government of President Serrano Elias. "The possibility of an armed confrontation or military raid in the area is very remote. There is friction, however, and several Guatemalan citizens have been harassed in different ways. We, of course, must support and protect them," he ended.

Honduras

Article Views Blame for Human Rights Violations

PA0103012294 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Feb 94 p 9a

[Article by Oscar Echenique Bustillo]

[Text] News from Washington is that the Pentagon itself has disclosed that their U.S. military aid to the rest of the world, especially continental Latin American countries, will soon be reviewed. At the same time, the Pentagon admitted and confirmed that it trained military leaders from Latin American countries, which were later charged with violating human rights in their respective countries.

Regarding this, sources from President Clinton's own administration have confirmed that the review the Pentagon refers to began after it was reported that 45 Army officers from neighboring El Salvador, who were trained in the United States, have been implicated in the massacre of unarmed civilians in El Salvador during the 1980's. This has been confirmed in a report by a special UN commission, appointed to investigate this, and recently delivered to the amazement of the peoples the world over.

The special UN report revealed in detail who and how six Jesuits were murdered in a San Salvador university, clearly establishing the Salvadoran Army's responsibility in this crime, which shook the world at the time.

What is most ironic in all this is that the Salvadoran military members were trained in the School of Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia, United States, not to kill priests, but to defend democracy and human rights in their country and in Latin America.

The review the Pentagon refers to is to determine which countries are to receive U.S. military and police training and equipment.

The situation taking place in the United States is of such a nature that many of the human rights defense groups in that country are pressuring President Clinton to change its programs for International Education and Training and for Foreign Military Financing, created to encourage stability, democracy, and respect for human rights in U.S. allied countries and especially in our Latin American countries.

There is awareness in the United States that money from "gringo" tax payers has been used in the name of the defense of democracy and respect for human rights, precisely to violate those rights in the countries from which these soldiers came, and were educated, taught, and trained in U.S. military schools.

In the name of human rights and using democracy as a pretext, savagery has been committed in Latin America against the civilian population, and this continues. One can very well say that in a certain way the United States has much to blame with what has taken place with regard to human rights, which still continues to happen in our countries.

Nicaragua

Response to 'Rupture,' Accusations in FSLN

Sector Objects to Verbal Attacks

94CA0072A Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 22 Jan 94 p 4

[Commentary by Coordinating Committee of Sandinists for the National Project]

[Text] The holding of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] Congress scheduled for May 1994 has given rise to a major controversy within the party that has unfortunately prompted one of the opposing factions to resort to unfounded accusations and reprehensible epithets. This in turn has generated great tensions that endanger the necessary unity of Sandinists, tensions that could clearly lead to a breakup having disastrous consequences for members, the party, and the country. Such a rupture would only reaffirm the current party chiefs' inability to exercise leadership strong enough to unite members despite their diversity, a revolutionary trait. It would lead the FSLN into the same situation in which all parties that have existed throughout our political history have found themselves and with the same faults and ills.

The course of internal discussion alarms us as a faction, just as it alarms all Sandinists. Two phenomena that both support and complement one another lie at the root of these confrontations:

1—First of all, bossism has gradually taken root in Sandinism, replacing the old collective leadership and attempting to deny any new leadership. This is antidemocratic by definition and in no way able to support necessary changes within the party, particularly those having to do with the deepening of party democracy.

2—In addition, one faction within Sandinism opposes renewal, deems violent methods valid, defended "the ticket" at the First Congress, continues to support democratic centralism—however obsolete—and provides the fundamental mainstay of bossism. Discredit and exclusion have been the favorite methods of such comrades, and anyone who does not think as they do is considered a traitor to the Sandinist cause.

The latest verbal attacks from members of the faction are aimed precisely at vetoing any renewal of the party and the alternative of a new party and national leadership. The approach constitutes an attack on the necessary unity of Sandinism, which depends upon the following:

1) that personal aspirations within the party are valid for all members, not just part of them;

2) that bossism has been extremely detrimental throughout the history of Nicaragua, for which reason we must banish it from the FSLN;

3) that diversity of Sandinist thought is the basis of its revolutionary principles; and

4) that transparent, high-minded methods are absolutely necessary and irreplaceable.

We Sandinists for the National Program reaffirm once more our commitment to renewal and the democratization of the FSLN. Consequently, we clearly condemn the verbal attacks launched against the Sandinist bene', and Dr. Sergio Ramirez. We are issuing an urgent appeal to maintain debate within the confines of decency, on a high plain, and with respect for personal dignity and ideas.

Sandinists for the National Coordinating Commission Program

Francisco de Asis Fernandez, Oscar Tellez, Raul Venerio, Julio Lopez Miranda, Gloria Gabuardi, Orlando Castillo, Antenor Ferrey, Alfredo Alaniz, Carlos Molina Oliu, and Augusto Montealegre.

Ramirez's Position Termed Weak

94CA0072B Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 30 Jan 94 p 4

[Commentary by Ernesto Castillo: "Who Is Accelerating the Deterioration of the FSLN?"]

[Text] Is it possible that for some Sandinists the loss of power means the loss of values? When one reviews the attitude of devotion, sacrifice, and rectitude of many comrades, it is very difficult for us to understand their egotism. It translates into a desperation to retain the leading role and preserve privileges on the part of the very persons who, by virtue of the very responsibilities

they exercise within the party, should be an example for those who still believe that the FSLN is the last hope for achieving a more just society.

The FSLN of today cannot be the same as it was in past decades. Trying to turn it into a docile, blind instrument prevents its adaptation to the dynamic times in which we are living. To cling to positions of power and use improper methods of struggle, methods at odds with honesty, is not proper revolutionary practice.

From 1990 on, we have sadly observed an accelerated process of deterioration within our ranks. Sound debate of ideological principles and methods of struggle has been replaced by irrational, willful imposition. We have been incapable of giving its rightful place to a Sandinist Assembly that must be provided with the proper instruments rather than strengthened as the maximum authority between congresses.

Nor is it the right, the social democrats, radicals, or moderates who must take the blame for the moral deterioration of the party. Rather, it is the elements that stand in the way of the search for solutions, believing that the party serves them, who are responsible.

The method chosen in the attempt to discredit Sergio or any other Sandinist is sad and condemnable. Nor must one be deceived by the argument that (given his personality) one is merely dealing with an outburst by Carlos Guadamuz. With his personality and the radio, Guadamuz responds to partisan interests rather than the interests of the FSLN. These methods of struggle do more harm to those who promote them than to the individual they target.

It is not by submissively and unthinkingly adhering to the will of a leader, whoever he may be, that we shall help maintain unity and define a political program that will bind us together and move us forward.

To my way of thinking, Sergio made a terrible mistake by accepting the post in the the National Leadership. At that first Congress, he should have realized that the ticket would be imposed and that as a result, the decision of majority of the members of the National Leadership to cling to posts and positions would drag him into an internal struggle (new for him) rather than participation in a collective leadership. I also believe it was a mistake to respond to the radio attacks. The language, content, and their authors discredit them and render them unworthy of any response.

FSLN Leader on Cuba Visit, Meeting With Castro

PA2802142394 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 25 Feb 94 p 12

[Text] Commander Bayardo Arce, member of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, met with Cuban President Fidel Castro during an exchange tour in Cuba that began Monday and ended Wednesday in Havana. Upon returning from Cuba, Arce voiced his concern that while the government celebrates the fourth anniversary of its electoral victory, it has not yet appointed an ambassador to Cuba.

There are thousands of Nicaraguan students in Cuba, health cooperation agreements are maintained, and many people travel to that country to receive medical treatment for exceptional health problems.

He stressed that Cuba renegotiated its debt with Nicaragua, reducing it to almost symbolic levels, and that those obligations have not even been honored by the Nicaraguan Government.

In addition to meeting with Fidel Castro, Arce met with other government leaders and members of the Communist Party of Cuba, including Carlos Lage, vice president of the Council of State; Osmany Cienfuegos, member of the PCC [Communist Party of Cuba] Politburo; Pedro Arbizu [name as published], director of the America Department; Foreign Trade Minister Carlos Cabrizas [name as published]; and Hector Rodriguez, president of the National Bank of Cuba. As for the subjects discussed, Arce said that he reviewed with the Cuban leaders aspects related to the Cuban economic opening and Nicaragua's domestic situation, particularly the Sandinist process and the party's upcoming special congress.

Genie Case Hearing Continues in Military Court

PA2702133394 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 24 Feb 94 p 2

[Report by Arquimedes Gonzalez]

[Text] On the third day of the hearing on the homicide of Jean Paul Genie, which occurred in October 1990, military prosecutor Lester Gallo Sandoval on 23 February ordered the provisional arrest of two more bodyguards of General Humberto Ortega, chief of the Sandinist People's Army, EPS. This makes a total of six bodyguards who have been interrogated and placed under provisional arrest.

Bodyguards Jose Marino Medina Alvarez and Arnoldo Enrique Morales Montes were interrogated on the morning of 23 February, after which they were notified of their provisional arrests and then transferred to La Granja on km 14 of the road to Masaya.

Coinciding with previous depositions given by four bodyguards, both Medina and Morales said that on 28 October 1990 at approximately 1400 they left Las Colinas in a Renegado jeep and two white Toyota Cressidas and went to the General Command, returning to Military Complex 003 located at Gen. Ortega's residence at approximately 1800.

Nothing Abnormal on the Day of the Incident

Marino Medina said the EPS chief's caravan uses a silver Renegado jeep and that the day of the incident everything was normal when they left: "There was nothing abnormal." In answering a question from the prosecutor, Medina said that the bodyguards "only fire if they are attacked first. We have never fired at a suspect," he stressed.

Meanwhile, Morales Mor es did not provide any new information and only reiterated what the other five bodyguards who were interrogated before him had said.

Mario Barahona Portocarrero, the defense lawyer for four of the bodyguards, said on 23 February that the arrest warrant issued for the bodyguards contained "serious flaws." For instance, "we have not yet seen a witness who can identify them or truly prove their participation in the action."

Prosecutor Daniel Olivas, however, claims he has "the necessary evidence" to prove the bodyguards are guilty. "The empty cartridges belong to their rifles, and there was a Bengal light which is only used by them," he stressed. Olivas said that the bodyguards' weapons were not confiscated immediately after the crime but several days later, and "now the rifles have disappeared," which could mean that they were intentionally hidden.

In that regard, Barahona said that investigations "established that the empty cartridges were from AK rifles, but the report never said that the shots were fired by Gen. Ortega's bodyguards."

The Rifles Were Not Fired

"The rifles were never fired," Barahona said, adding that "the forensic experts did not find traces of gunpowder in the bodyguard's rifles." Barahona gave little importance to the investigation conducted by a Venezuelan mission in 1990, "because from the beginning they started accusing Gen. Ortega's bodyguards without considering other possibilities. They did not come here to investigate but to accuse," he noted.

Military Prosecutor Lester Gallo Sandoval said that no further actions have been scheduled since the two bodyguards' depositions because no requests have been received from the plaintiff's side. He added that it is possible that the case could be resolved in the next 10 days, when he should have enough material to reach the necessary conclusions. He added that he will summon all the witnesses in order to have more evidence to work with when passing judgment.

At the end of the hearing Raymond Genie insisted on disqualifying the military court and the Supreme Court of Justice's decision to transfer the case to that court. In a document presented at noon on 23 February, Genie referred to the sentence issued on 31 January 1993 by Judge Boanerges Ojeda ordering the "provisional arrest of the soldier or soldiers implicated in the case" and in which Gen. Ortega and Captains Jose Orozco Pavon and Lorenzo Martin Romero Betanco were mentioned as "concealers." Based on that sentence Genie requested that provisional arrest warrants be issued for the presumed "concealers" Judge Ojeda mentioned in his sentence.

Deputy Says U.S. Embassy Opposes Antidrug Law

PA2802152994 Managua Canal Cuatro Television in Spanish 0400 GMT 25 Feb 94

[From the "Extravision" newscast; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Deputy Doris Tijerino said today the U.S. Embassy does not want the National Assembly plenum to pass the antidrug law, because it does not include the DEA's collaboration with the National Police on drug control.

The police and National Assembly commission that prepared the draft bill on narcotics, psychotropic substances and so forth still disagree on certain controversial issues such as whether the DEA should participate in Nicaraguan drug-trafficking investigations. Tijerino says the antidrug law should be educational instead of repressive.

[Tijerino] "Excessive pressure has been exerted on the commission to make the law repressive. My concern is it may repress our youths, a point that is obvious from the disregard that has been shown for the need to allow the Nicaraguan Youth Council to work with the National Council."

[Announcer] Commander Leonel Espinoza, of the National Police Narcotics Department, has said the following:

[Espinoza] "Every law contains repressive elements, but this law also calls for a national council that will design a plan that will also address general preventive issues such as education, children, and youths; in other words, the law contemplates the preventive side of the struggle against drug related crimes, not only the coercive side of it."

[Announcer] Deputy Tijerino says the U.S. Embassy did not want the plenum to pass the law.

[Unidentified reporter] "Who has come under pressure and what type?

[Tijerino] "I have met with David Noble, and I was informed that before the draft bill was sent to the plenum for discussion it was delivered to the U.S. Embassy so that the embassy could say whether it adhered to international agreements. Mr. Noble asked me, diplomatically, of course, if I would agree to a withdrawal of the law from debate. This means U.S. Embassy officials

oppose the law, because it does not guarantee unrestricted activities by organizations such as the DEA, which promotes police operations against drug trafficking."

[Announcer] Meanwhile, Commander Espinosa has said the following:

[Espinosa] "I have said openly we will cooperate with every police force in the world. We believe certain police organizations have more experience in the struggle against drug trafficking and more vested interests as well, but such cooperation is totally fair and normal."

[Announcer] The antidrug law had been stored away for over two years, and during the second session of debates progress was made only on Article Five, which was discussed today for more than three hours. The law will continue to be discussed at the National Assembly, and its approval is expected within several weeks.

Five Charged With Attempted Murder of Lacayo

PA2802165394 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 26 Feb 94 pp 1, 8

[Text] Five citizens who were accused of plotting to assassinate Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo have been charged with attempted murder and association with criminal intent.

Lacayo appears on the legal document as the only plaintiff in the case opened on 19 February, when Matagalpa police arrested a "mechanic" identified as German Saenz Perez, a native of Matiguas.

Saenz appeared before the judge of the Matagalpa District First Court, but when police realized the magnitude of his statement, they took Saenz to the Managua Fifth Criminal District Court, presided over by Martha Quezada.

Matagalpa authorities have not established if Saenz is connected to any other crime. They added Saenz told them he was one of the individuals who held a "meeting" with "certain prominent figures."

The "prominent figures" to whom Saenz referred included no less than Deputy Humberto Castilla, a man named Aristides, and a mayor of an undisclosed location in northern Nicaragua.

According to Saenz, also known as "Tuti," the meeting was held in San Jose de los Remates. He added many more meetings, which were attended by recontra leader "Charrito," followed.

The main objective of these meetings was to devise the perfect plan to assassinate Lacayo.

In addition to Saenz, Doris Isabel Lopez Morraz, Manuel Salvador Lopez Morraz, Francisco Javier Rivera Picado, and Luis Izaguirre Guevara are being tried.

The trial still lacks a writ of inquiry by the plaintiff, in this case, but it has an exhaustive chronology by Saenz, the main defendant, regarding his first "casual" encounter with the mentioned prominent individuals.

According to Saenz, he met his presumed "employers" for the first time when he was walking down a road in Matiguas and was approached by several men in a luxury vehicle. The men, including those already mentioned, then asked him for directions to get to San Jose de los Remates.

Preliminary investigations indicate Saenz has links with members of the former resistance movement and that he is living with a woman whose relatives died during the war.

Reliable sources have disclosed Castilla mentioned the subject in private at the National Assembly, referring to Saenz as his "former driver," whom he had fired because Saenz allegedly offered drugs to his son.

Castilla has also downplayed Saenz' version and denied all accusations the defendants might make against him during the process.

EPS To Continue Offensive Against Some Armed Groups

PA0103013794 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Feb 94 pp 1, 12

[Article by Roberto Orozco B.]

[Text] The Sandinist People's Army [EPS] will continue offensive actions against groups of rearmed individuals who have not accepted the demobilization of the 3-80 Northern Front, including the groups led by "Charro" and "Northiel" [Roberto Garcia Castro], EPS spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Jaime Wheelock has said.

"Charro" and "Northiel" will be fought in spite of the efforts by Jose Angel Talavera, alias Commander "Chacal," to gather the troops of these two rebel chieftains and demobilize them together with the 3-80 Northern Front. The EPS confirmed yesterday that "Charro" and "Northiel" refused to attend a meeting between the government and the 3-80 Northern Front in Caulatu, Quilali, where both parties signed an agreement that will bring peace in northern Nicaragua.

Charro's troops two days ago attacked the town of Mulukuku, where the police had to flee when they could not fight them. According to police sources, there were only five law enforcement officers in this town. Mulukuku was attacked a second time by the recontras under the command of "Aguila Negra," "Arandu," and "Alacran," all of them subordinates of "Charro." In the first attack in February 1993, three policemen were murdered.

According to journalist Aurora Leyton Morales—our correspondent in Matagalpa—the 19-year old Daniel

Ochoa Castro was killed in this attack when the rearmed men tried to kidnap him. The following persons who had demobilized from the Nicaraguan Resistance received bullet wounds: Rosario Suarez Guido, 24; Miguel Angel Fernandez, 30; Justo Ortiz, 27; and Gregorio Sanchez, 44. Charro's troops also looted some shops, bars, and restaurants.

"The peace agreement exclusively protects the 3-80 Northern Front. "Charro" and "Northiel" do not belong to that group; they form part of another organization that has mixed political and criminal connotations, Lt. Col. Wheelock pointed out. "Nonetheless, the political banners being waged by 'Charro' and 'Northiel' are disregarded because they refuse to demobilize. They will be fought by the Army, just like it fights criminal bands," Wheelock emphasized.

Wheelock also referred the agreements signed yesterday in Caulatu. After making a summary of the same, he reported that the EPS yesterday sent food for 400 men, and that the Health Ministry sent a medical brigade to treat the wounded from the 3-80 Northern Front. That is all part of the agreements signed yesterday at Caulatu. He added that the EPS, CIAV-OAS [International Commission of Support and Verification-OAS], and the rebel group will keep in contact and will coordinate actions to prevent any incidents in the future, and that "when we have to enter the enclave, they will be informed first."

He confirmed that the 3-80 Northern Front will demobilize in three stages, beginning on 2 March when 100 men disarm. The second stage will begin on 16 March, when 50 percent of those remaining will demobilize, while on 8 April, the rest of the fighters and the Council of Commanders of the 3-80 Northern Front led by "Chacal" will rejoin civilian life.

Panama

Column Questions Origin of PRD Candidate's Wealth

PA2802173694 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 25 Feb 94 p 6A

[From the "Hidden Truths" column by Tomas Cabal: "Questions Arise Regarding Origin of Perez Balladares' Fortune"]

[Text] PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] candidate Ernesto Perez Balladares up until now has evaded serious questioning regarding the origin of his vast fortune. Protecting himself under the so-called Santa Maria Agreement [Pacto de Santa Maria] and a strategy designed by his advisers, "Toro" [Perez Balladares] has avoided all forums in which his performance as a government official could be scrutinized by people who know the inside of the mistakenly labelled "revolutionary process."

Recently, the PRD candidate refused to accept an invitation from the daily LA PRENSA by arguing that media was not "impartial." Sources close to the candidate point out that "Toro" knows his role as a minister and a government official of the military will not stand up to serious analysis or questioning. Other sources who know the details of the vast fortune controlled by Perez Balladares appear surprised that the other candidates have not even bothered to question the origin of the PRD candidate's assets and riches.

Former officials of the military regime indicate that the funds to install the television station controlled by Perez Balladares and his associates were supplied on direct orders from Omar Torrijos. Upon Torrijos' death, the balance of the funds required for the station to operate was handed over by Panama Defense Forces [PDF] staff members, according to the source. Meanwhile, Perez Balladares and his running mates have been effective in criticizing the current government's inefficiency and corruption.

With Guillermo Endara in the Presidency surrounded by a number of individuals who profited under the umbrella of the military garrisons, the PRD campaign has been relatively easy. No one can deny that this government has been a complete failure. This fact, together with the Torrijist myth that "everything was better" in the past, facilitates "Toro" and his followers' election propaganda.

We are certain that the Panamanian people have not forgotten the dictatorship's excesses. Nevertheless, it is also obvious that many lower income Panamanians long for the times of "cash favors and petty gains" [salve y rebuscas]. PRD members have been effective in presenting the military government as a period of economic bonanza where everyone had hopes of "meeting the family's basic needs."

For a people battered by hunger, malnutrition, unemployment, insecurity, and poverty, this is a powerful message being successfully exploited by the PRD. The PRD has conveniently forgotten the $962-million loss at the National Bank; the world's largest per-capita foreign debt; and the embezzlements in the Social Security Fund, the National Savings Bank, and other state institutions.

The PRD, its founders, and representatives were accomplices of robbery and theft. Mr. Perez Balladares, as well as many of his followers, cannot explain the origins of their fortunes.

"Toro" and his running mates are all members of a "native aristocracy" that did not hesitate to surrender and sell out to the military. Perez Balladares and the other "hand picked" officials who worked for the military have no right to talk about or criticize the democratic government's inefficiency. They and the majority of their followers profited from and exploited the Panamanian people during 21 years of military dictatorship.

With Noriega in jail and Torrijos in hell, it is easy for PRD members to sidestep the truth by not replying to awkward questions related to their political and business activities. These activities must be brought into the open during this political campaign.

The thefts and arrogance that characterized the PRD administration will be repeated if they gain power again. It is then time to question in detail Mr. Perez Balladares on the origin of his vast fortune. The questioning should take place in public forums and through campaign propaganda to determine whether he can respond and convince the voters that he has made his fortune through honest work.

It is said that the people choose the leaders they deserve. If we accept the results of the latest polls, it appears we are going downhill, repeating the errors of the past by electing pirates and privateers whose sole goal is "Everything for our own personal gain," ["Todo por la papa," play on words on the former PDF slogan "Todo por la patria"—"Everything for the fatherland."]

Argentina

Foreign Minister on Joining Nonproliferation Treaty

PY2802230194 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 23 Feb 94 p 15

[Article by Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella: "We Do Not Want To Be Outcasts"]

[Text] Our active commitment to the nonproliferation policy in the field of missiles, chemical weapons, and nuclear energy represents one of the key points of the so-called Argentine foreign policy's "Copernican revolution."

We espoused this commitment by principle, and in pursuit of our interests.

By principle, because one of the priorities of the international community in which Argentina, within its reach and possibilities, now plays a leading role undoubtedly consists in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In pursuit of our interests, and thanks to this policy (and within the framework of the transformations our country is carrying out), Argentina is regaining trust and credibility. And this is translated into a reduction of the so-called Argentine risk, a decline in the cost of loans, an increase in investments, and access to sensitive technology that had been banned for us. Without the nonproliferation policy, Argentina would be described today as an outcast country, estranged from the Western world from a political, technological, and economic viewpoint.

Changes in the international political system and in the progress made by great powers to achieve disarmament have modified public and political stances on the acquisition of nuclear weapons, and have contributed to creating a closely-knit atmosphere in the sphere of nonproliferation.

The international community has become fully aware that the acquisition of nuclear weapons jeopardizes international peace and security and mankind's survival.

Proof of this is that at the beginning of 1992 the UN Security Council declared for the first time that the proliferation of weapons of massive destruction constitutes a "threat to international peace and security."

Within this framework the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) signed in London, Moscow, and Washington on 1 July 1968, and effective since 5 March 1970, is considered to be the bulwark of nonproliferation.

This international legal instrument enables nonnuclear states to freely confirm that they renounce nuclear weapons in a formal and internationally binding way. Moreover, by observing the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, they can prove that such a commitment is faithfully honored.

This has been the path so far taken by some 160 countries—South Africa, which has an important nuclear program, followed this example. Only 30 states, including Argentina, have not adhered to the NPT.

Not long ago President Menem officially expressed his decision to join this important international instrument in the future. This bears direct relation to and is the culmination of the path taken by our government, which enabled the issuance of Decree 603/92 on the control of the exportation of sensitive material, signing the Quadripartite Safeguards Agreement between Argentina, Brazil, the ABACC [Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials] and the IAEA, establishing the ABACC, joining the Tlatelolco Treaty, and participating as an observer to the group of nuclear supplying countries, of which it will soon become a member.

It should be pointed out that by virtue of the Quadripartite Agreement and the Tlatelolco Treaty, our country meets all the requirements established by the NPT.

The signing of the NPT will earn our country international confidence and openness in our nuclear activities, and will contribute to consolidating the international high standing we have built up for ourselves concerning nonproliferation. Besides, it will facilitate and boost the exchange of new technologies with countries that are more developed in this area. It will also enable us to have greater clout when the renewal of the NPT is discussed next year, so as to be able to include more stringent provisions for the disarmament of nuclear countries.

And above all one must not lose sight of the fact that the current nonproliferation system is based on an international treaty (NPT) signed by the majority of states. This means that nonproliferation cannot be effectively imposed only by powerful states or suppliers of nuclear technology and materials, but rather by the experience and action of the international community in its entirety.

Santiago del Estero Workers Stage Protest March 26 Feb

PY2802204894 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 27 Feb 94 p 4

[Text] Santiago del Estero (DYN-NA)—Workers in this provincial capital yesterday staged a protest march in demand of wage hikes and to complain about reductions in their salaries. The 500 workers also continued to collect signatures for a petition rejecting an adjustment bill, to be presented to trustee Juan Schiaretti on 20 March, that sparked violent riots here late last year. Union sources said that teachers were upset about differences in salaries paid to staff doing the same job. The sources added that there is no salary scale to go by in the province for teachers and other state workers. Teachers unions also said that the 20 percent bonus paid to teachers with more than 20 years on the job had been cancelled by the government here.

Posadas Mate Growers Protest Low Prices

PY2802210994 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 28 Feb 94 p 4

[Text] Posadas (DYN)—Local farmers, upset by the low returns that they receive for their crops and pressure from the tax man, staged rowdy protests yesterday. From early morning farmers cut national Highway 12 near the town of Capiovy, some 130 kilometres from Posadas, on the road which links Misiones Province with the Brazilian border. The farmers, mostly yerba mate growers, are classed by the DGI Tax Bureau as being self-employed and are being pressed to pay pension arrears for the past 10 years. The poor farmers say that they have been severely hurt by the tax demands. The protesters, who had camped by the roadside, stooped traffic until a judge ordered the Border Guards to remove them. Three people were arrested and will be appearing in court on Tuesday. The farmers are demanding a fixed rather than market price for their crops.

Roundup of Reportage on Economic Activities

PY2502145394

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic activities in Argentina through 24 February:

Finance Secretary Ricardo Gutierrez reported that the nonfinancial public sector, excluding privatizations, registered a 5.121 billion pesos primary surplus in 1993, "the highest level ever in Argentine economic history." This was based on revenues of 44.756 billion pesos and expenses of 40.197 billion pesos and additional resources. (Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 19 Feb 94 p 5)

A Foreign Ministry press communique reports that the Argentine Government has issued a bond series of $350 million Euro-Titles with a one-year maturity. These securities, which will be sold in international markets, will not be registered under U.S. laws and cannot be offered or sold in the United States. (Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2250 GMT 24 Feb 94)

Bolivia

Police Say Spanish Citizen Killed by Military

PY2802172394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0049 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] La Paz, 27 Feb (EFE)—Spaniard Manuel Ramon Puchol did not die of a drug overdose: He was beaten to death by some military men in the Bolivian town of San Matias, according to a report by the office of the police chief of that Amazon town, as reported by Radio Panamericana and by ANF [Fides News Agency].

Same sources added that Captain Rodomiro Rada, the San Matias Police chief, informed Santa Cruz department Police Commander Armando Morin Sanchez today that Puchol died on the evening of 10 February at the Monte Florida 14th Infantry barracks, following a beating by a group of military men.

Radio Panamericana of La Paz reported that Army Lieutenant Marco Antonio Mejia Alarcon is responsible for Puchol's death.

The San Matias Police report states that British subject Douglas James Morrison and some San Matias residents saw Mejia Alarcon brutally beating Puchol on the evening of 10 February.

After declaring that he witnessed the brutal beating of Puchol by Mejia Alarcon and other military men, Morrison left San Matias last Thursday, sought protection at the British and Spanish embassies in La Paz, and his whereabouts are unknown.

Despite the statement by Morrison, Interior Minister German Quiroga, Police Commander General Luis Rocha, and General Reynaldo Caceres—the Army commander in chief—emphasized last Friday that there was no evidence that San Matias military men had beaten Puchol, and that he died of a cocaine overdose.

Puchol, 33, was a Spanish Justice Ministry official who arrived on 10 February in San Matias, in the Bolivian department of Santa Cruz, which borders Brazil. A few days earlier, he made a study of the Xingu Indian tribe in the Brazilian region of Mato Grosso.

Interior Ministry sources informed EFE on 16 February that early on 11 February, Bolivian military men left Puchol's dead body at a San Matias hospital, explaining that they found it in a vehicle abandoned in a jungle zone.

Foreign Minister Cited

PY2802141494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] La Paz, 25 Feb (EFE)—Bolivian Foreign Minister Antonio Aranibar today said that the violent death of Spanish citizen Manuel Ramon Puchol in Bolivia has nothing to do with the Bolivian Government or people.

Aranibar told ANF [Fides News Agency] that his ministry will "investigate the real cause" of the death of Puchol, who died on 10 February in San Matias, Bolivia.

The foreign minister said he spoke today with Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana "to whom I expressed our regrets and guaranteed the Bolivian Government's political will to clarify this murder."

According to witnesses, Puchol, 33, died on 10 February in San Matias, after being beaten by a group of military men. According to a preliminary Bolivian police report, he died as consequence of a drug overdose. The police promised to continue investigating.

MIR Links With Traffickers, Members' Withdrawal Viewed

PY2802154194 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Report by Ricardo Diaz from Sucre]

[Text] The strong party structure of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, MIR, and of the Nationalist Democratic Action, ADN, is silently crumbling as a result of the withdrawal of several of their members. The crisis became more acute following the dissemination of charges about alleged links between high- ranking MIR leaders—including [former Bolivian President] Jaime Paz Zamora—with drug traffickers. MIR and ADN congressmen have been observed to maintain a discreet silence over the issue, thus causing the two parties middle-ranking leaders' to leave the parties files.

ADN leader Gaston Encina, who was previously one of the main MIR defenders, does not want to comment on the issue and is withdrawing from the political scenario. The public, however, would like to hear his opinion because it is known that he also participated in the meetings with drug traffickers, as the charges state.

The crisis is affecting not only former President Jaime Paz Zamora's party; it has also stained Mr. Hugo Banzer Suarez' party. In the last few hours, the withdrawal of several ADN members and middle-ranking leaders has been reported. Among the withdrawing ADN members is Jorge Landivar Rua, a former Chuquisaca Department ADN governor. He said: We have been fighting corruption and are now indignant that trafficking may have permeated the national structure of our political parties. I bluntly repudiate the situation because these links, particularly MIR links, with drug trafficking are twofold corrupt, Landivar said.

The MIR and ADN crisis is becoming more acute.

MIR Leaders Accept Congressional Investigation

PY2802201094 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] As was said a few minutes ago, the leaders of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, the MIR, have placed themselves at the disposal of the Chamber of Deputies Constitution Committee to be investigated.

A FIDES news agency cable refers to a particular case: Through a note handed to the Chamber of Deputies president, former Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco, who is a member of the MIR, has placed himself at the disposal of the Chamber of Deputies Justice Committee. Drug traffickers questioned during investigations conducted by the Judicial Police have made the serious charge of Capobianco having links with drug traffickers. Capobianco today appeared before the Constitution Committee to deliver the aforementioned note. On the occasion, he said that in the note addressed to Constitution Committee President (?Luis Sandoval Moron), he ratifies his decision to request that the Committee members begin the investigation. Capobianco declined to make a statement on his party's behalf. He only said that for three years he has been wanting to be heard by a constitutional institution.

COB, Coca Growers Protest 'Violent Repression'

PY2802203494 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] The Bolivian Labor Federation, COB, holds the government responsible for the clashes that occurred early on the morning of 26 February at Chapare, Cochabamba Department.

Nearly 15,000 Chapare coca growers staged a demonstration on 25 February, rejecting the compulsory eradication of their plantations. This demonstration, which in the opinion of COB Executive Secretary Oscar Salas was entirely legal, brought to the region Mobile Rural Patrol Unit, Umopar, agents who occupied the site. A clash was the result early on the morning of 26 February.

[Begin Salas recording] Blood was shed during the violent repression, and 18 fellow coca growers were injured. [end recording]

While the COB asserts that 18 people were injured, some with buckshot, the government reports that only three people were injured: two of them coca growers and the third an Umopar officer. The COB also asserts that 78 people had been arrested, although they have now been released. The government, however, asserts that only 60 people were arrested.

Despite the reigning tense calm, an agreement has been reached with the government by which the coca growers ask not to be confused with drug traffickers.

[Begin Salas recording] Their repressed fury was against the coca growers instead of against drug traffickers. The other point is that there must be an equivalence, that coca must be replaced by other products. [end recording]

Salas categorically pointed out that no one can force growers to eradicate their coca plantations because the alternative development programs are not being implemented. If the government forces this measure, it would be removing their livelihood.

It must also be said that the coca growers are unaware of the contents of the few alternative development programs, which still remain on paper.

COB Leader Begins 'Dry' Hunger Strike

PY2802160094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1956 GMT 24 Feb 94

[Text] La Paz, 24 Feb (EFE)—Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) Executive Secretary Oscar Salas today began a "dry" hunger strike (without liquids) in response to the government rejection of a list of petitions presented by the COB 44 days ago.

Salas and several other COB leaders who joined the hunger strike are trying to promote labor mobilizations which somehow have lost the workers appeal, thus reflecting the labor movement's weakness.

The administration of President Sanchez de Lozada rejected the economic and social petitions of the COB, which demands a minimum salary of 1,360 bolivianos (about $300 per month) instead of the current 135 bolivianos ($30) and ratified its decision to increase salaries by 7.5 percent.

The government reply to the 30-point list of petitions did not leave the COB any alternative but to resort to pressure with "massive mobilizations" and the "paralyzation of the productive class," the union leaders said.

Salas yesterday resigned because of the "irresponsibility" of some union leaders who are not participating in the demonstrations in demand of wage increases organized by the COB. Salas nonetheless resumed his post a few hours later to conduct the struggle.

"I do not think that the decision to begin a dry hunger strike is the most appropriate," said Minister of Government German Quiroga, who added that "this type of attitude is never positive and leads to stagnation."

Roundup of Unrest in Various Departments

PY2802153994

[Editorial Report] La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish at 1100 GMT on 28 February carries, in its regularly scheduled newscast, several reports on demonstrations, clashes, and strikes nationwide.

In a 90-second report from Oruro, the announcer comments on university students' plans to stage demonstrations today protesting the central government's failure to meet fund allocation demands; on confirmation by the departmental offices of the Bolivian Labor Federation, COB, that local streets will be blocked for one hour, beginning 1500 GMT, in rejection of the government's failure to meet workers' petition; on a regional meeting of union leaders to begin at 1830 GMT to schedule ways of exerting pressure on the government during this week; and on a Mining Corporation of Bolivia, Comibol, deadline today for miners to tender their voluntary resignation and thus become entitled to a $1,000 bonus.

In a one-minute report from Cochabamba, the announcer comments on the declaration of a state of emergency in the tropical Chapare region following frequent clashes between coca growers and Mobile Rural Patrol Unit, Umopar, agents because coca growers refuse to have their plantations eradicated even though, in some parts of the department, they are growing more coca than the compulsory coca eradication program allows.

In a two-minute report from Potosi, the announcer comments on the miners' harsh criticism of the current administration and describes the tragic situation prevailing inside Unificada mine where water supply, air supply, and electricity have been suspended to force miners to voluntarily resign. The announcer also reports on the situation reigning at other local mines and protests about the $1,000 bonus from which, in several leaders and workers' opinion, a large amount will deducted under the concept of social contribution.

In a two-minute report from Santa Cruz, the announcer comments on local university students' refusal to suspend demonstrations—which on 25 February ended in violent clashes with the police and a large number of people injured—unless government meets their fund allocation demands, and on student leaders' protests over police violence during said demonstrations.

Study Shows Increase in Percentage of Urban Poor

PY2802203194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0147 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] La Paz, 27 Feb (EFE)—The percentage of poor families in Bolivian cities increased from 74.7 percent to 80.1 percent between 1987 and 1991, according to a study carried out by the Center of Studies for Labor and Agricultural Development (CEDLA) that was released today.

CEDLA asserts that eight out of 10 urban families do not have enough income to pay for their basic needs, according to research carried out in La Paz, El Alto, Cochabamba, and Santa Cruz.

According to the study, 80.1 percent of the urban population are poor, of which 49.4 percent are destitute, while the percentage of non-destitute (those who earn enough to buy food, but not clothes or pay for housing or anything else) reached 30.5 percent.

The CEDLA study, which was disseminated today by the JATHA news agency, states that "the neoliberal adjustment implemented by Bolivian governments since 1985 has worsened the unfair distribution of wealth, increased the concentration of income, and reduced the purchasing power of salaries and wages."

During the last few years, workers in the largest cities extended their work week by four weekly hours, with low salaries, lower income, and less labor stability.

The researchers said that not only has poverty increased, but the benefits to which a minority are entitled have been reduced as well.

The report states that 15 percent of the working population obtained half the income generated by the Bolivian economy, while the remaining 85 percent of the working population got the other half.

Bishop Edmundo Abastoflor, chairman of the Bolivian Bishops Conference, today warned of the serious social consequences that this gap between rich and poor, which increases daily, may bring.

"It is shocking to see the squandering of money in the downtown areas of Bolivian cities, with luxury cars and millions' worth of construction work, while you can also see the deterioration in the standard of living of the poor classes," said the bishop, who is worried about the increase of poverty in the country.

Abastoflor said that the poor must be helped with political and social measures so that they can improve their standards of living with dignity, as is appropriate for human beings.

Roundup of Reportage on Economic Activities

PY2402213494

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic activities in Bolivia through 24 February:

Jack Keenan, National Oil Engineering Directorate manager, has reported that proven natural gas reserves total 5 trillion cubic feet, which guarantees its supply to Brazil, Argentina and other markets. Keenan also said current oil reserves guarantee the domestic supply for the upcoming 15 years. (La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 11 Feb 94 p A16)

Pablo Zavaleta, state general accounting under secretary, has reported that 76 percent of the economic area budget is earmarked for paying the foreign debt. The Finance Ministry allocated 896.4 million bolivianos to meet the debt service in the first 10 months of 1993. (La Paz LA RAZON in Spanish 12 Feb 94 p B2)

The Multilateral Investments Fund, under the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Development Bank, will grant a $2.3 million loan to various Bolivian state-owned companies to finance programs designed to promote private investments. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 2154 GMT 15 Feb 94)

Ω Bolivia: Economic Briefs

94p20419

[Editorial Report] PLEDGES FOR AGRICULTURAL SECTOR—Oscar Ponce, under secretary of forestry and fishing, announced that President Sanchez de Lozada has approved a 10-year program for the development of Bolivia's agricultural sector. Foreign donors pledged $241 million [as published] for this program at last December's World Bank-sponsored Consultative Group meeting in Washington D.C. Of this amount, $13 million is to be allocated for seed purchases and production, $30 million for irrigation projects, $16 million for livestock raising, $8 million for fisheries, and $184 million for agricultural development. [La Paz EL DIARIO 28 Dec]

FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT—During the next four years the Bolivian Government will invest $14 million to develop the country's fisheries industry. A portion of this total, $8 million, will come from the $241 million package pledged at the Washington D.C. Consultative Group donors' meeting. The other $6 million will be disbursed by the EEC. Among the main projects envisaged are the completion of the fisheries station in Beni, the construction of a central supply warehouse in El Alto, and the consolidation of the Agroyungas Project. [La Paz PRESENCIA 6 Jan]

INVESTMENT IN IRRIGATION PROJECTS—Edgar Talavera, secretary for agriculture and livestock, announced that international agencies have pledged around $50 million for irrigation programs encompassing approximately 50,000 hectares nationwide. He explained that irrigation was the most effective way of combating rural poverty and raising standards of living. With this in mind, the government envisages putting into operation the National Directorate of Irrigation and Soils, which would coordinate the efforts of all the organizations involved in irrigation. [La Paz PRESENCIA DEL PAIS 19 Jan]

WOOD EXPORTS—According to Arturo Bowles, manager of the National Forestry Board, Bolivia's wood exports in 1993 amounted to $25 million. Argentina, the largest market, received 60 percent of exports, followed by the United States with 20 percent; the remaining 20 percent was distributed among 10 other countries. [La Paz EL DIARIO 7 Jan]

SANTA CRUZ EXPORTS—Santa Cruz's rose to approximately $121 million in 1993, a 12 percent increase from 1992, reported the Bolivian Foreign Trade Institute. It listed the most important exports as soybeans and derivatives, wood products, cotton, sugar, alcohol, and cowhides. The Andean Group is said to be the leading market for Santa Cruz exports. Of the $69 million generated from exports to that organization in 1993, $43 million came from oleaginous crops (soya and sunflower) and their derivatives, destined principally for Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador. Tito Monasterio, member of the Santa Cruz Chamber of Exporters board of directors, said that a project aimed at generating $700 million in exports over the next five years is planned. Furthermore, the Andean Development Corporation (CAP) approved three credit lines of $14 million for three Santa Cruz-based enterprises including two vegetable oil production plants and the General Industrial and Trading Company, which administers the Santa Cruz and La Paz free trade and industrial zones. [La Paz PRESENCIA 24, 28 Jan 94; Santa Cruz EL MUNDO 7, 19, 31 Jan]

CAF ASSISTANCE TO EXECUTIVE BRANCH—The president of the Andean Development Corporation announced that his organization has pledged over $200 million in 1994 for Bolivian Government programs, especially those relating to the capitalization process. In addition, the CAF has also granted the Bolivian Government $487,500 for the "restructuring of the Executive Branch and

the strengthening of three ministries and one secretariat." Of this total, $149,500 will go to the Ministry of Human Development, $230,000 to the Ministry of Economic Development and Finance, $100,000 to the Ministry of Sustainable Development, and $8,000 to the National Secretariat of Trade and Industry. [La Paz PRESENCIA 25 Jan; Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS 26 Jan]

Brazil

Transport Minister Coimbra Submits Resignation

PY0103020294 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Transport Ministry Margarida Coimbra today submitted a note of resignation to President Itamar Franco, but she has not yet received a reply to her request. Coimbra is being pressured to leave her post.

Last week the newspaper O GLOBO reported that Coimbra's husband, Carlos Henrique Siqueira, had tried to use his influence to obtain a release of funds for construction work on the Rio de Janeiro-Niteroi bridge. The work is being carried out by the Noronhe Engineering Company, for which Siqueira works.

Cardoso Clarifies 'Main Doubts' About Economic Plan

PY2802222094 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] After a meeting that lasted all day long yesterday, Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso hosted an exclusive press conference on the "Fantastico" program. The minister clarified the main doubts about the new index, emphasizing that financial investment and savings will remain unchanged:

[Begin Cardoso recording] We were careful to guarantee that savings account owners and those who have invested their money will have nothing to fear. Nothing at all has changed. This is an old promise. We will not confiscate savings accounts, freeze salaries, or freeze the funds of workers, housewives, or anybody else. We will not do anything to disturb the Brazilian people's routine lives. [end recording]

Interest rates:

[Begin Cardoso recording] The trend of the program is to make interest rates drop, as the program has been designed to deflate the economy and produce a currency with real value. Interest rates will then stand at a normal level. From the beginning of this process nominal interest rates will drop. [end recording]

New contracts:

[Begin Cardoso recording] New contracts will be based entirely in URV's [real value units]. Yet this will not be enforced immediately, in order to let people become accustomed to it over a period of 15 days, so as to learn how it operates. After this period the standard will be the URV—that is, a fixed, stable standard. This will remain valid for one year. Contracts may not have adjustment clauses.

As for old contracts, it will depend on what the contracting sides want. There will be time to agree to new terms. [end recording]

Installments paid by home buyers:

[Begin Cardoso recording] They will remain unchanged until further notice. There is no reason for any concern about it. Installments will be paid in real cruzeiros, based on the old rules. [end recording]

Health plans:

[Begin Cardoso recording] We expect that terms will be renegotiated. It will be more advantageous, because contracts can be for one year, as I said here, in URV's. It will be more practical, and if there is any problem we will solve it. [end recording]

Credit cards:

[Begin Cardoso recording] There will be no modifications. Everything will remain unchanged. [end recording]

Purchases on credit:

[Begin Cardoso recording] There will be no devaluation scale whatsoever. New contracts on credit will be specified in URV's. We will respect the terms of old contracts. [end recording]

Postdated checks:

[Begin Cardoso recording] They will be honored. Now, as we reach the time for implementation of the URV, we will give the rules. In any event, postdated checks will be honored. [end recording]

Minimum salary:

[Begin Cardoso recording] The previous law set the minimum salary at 55,500 cruzeiros, as I have just said. Well, if a person collects a minimum salary on the fifth working day of the following month, the URV conversion will make him collect 62,800 cruzeiros. If a retired worker were to collect 55,537 cruzeiros, which is the minimum salary under the old law, under the terms of the new law he will collect 70,600 cruzeiros.

The important thing is this comparison in cruzeiros, right? The URV, as we said, is approximately equivalent to one dollar. One dollar, one URV, right? Therefore, in dollars, if the URV is compared to the dollar, the result will be of approximately $64. But this amount, the day it is collected, in cruzeiros, will be much more valuable than on the first day of the month. This is the difference, and this is the real gain for workers. [end recording]

Past losses:

[Begin Cardoso recording] I don't know what past losses are all about. Things will depend on the calculation method. From now on, negotiations will be free.

The government did not order any constraint; it is not forbidding negotiations with unions, with employers. Therefore, if there is any loss that was not caused by this law, negotiations will continue the way they were being implemented, and compensations will be agreed upon on the collective agreement renewal date. Yet this will the last time, because from then on there will be no losses, because of what I said—that if prices go up, salaries will also immediately go up, because of the three indexes that I mentioned here. Consequently, I do not know whether there will be actually any losses.

For example, in the case of public workers, in order to avoid additional complications we granted a bond for February, which was included in the basis for calculation of their salaries.

Therefore, if the inflation rate were 40 percent in March, public servants will not lose anything, not even in March.

In April, when public servant salaries would not be adjusted, they will be adjusted for inflation, by whatever rate, 40, 35, or 30 percent, whatever the rate.... This law is actually much better. [end recording]

URV Implementation Measure Published in Gazette

PY2802131294 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Report by Alessandra Anselmo]

[Text] The provisional measure that will create the Real Value Unit [URV] was published in the Official Gazette today. The final details were decided during a meeting last night among President Itamar Franco, Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso, the economic team, six other ministers, and the counsel general in Planalto Palace.

The final details of the provisional measure to implement the URV were decided last night during a meeting in Planalto Palace that lasted nearly nine hours. Three subjects were decided during the meeting: First, the minimum salary value as of tomorrow will be $64 or $65. Social Security Minister Sergio Cutolo, who also attended the meeting, recalled that with the URV, pensioners and retired workers will obtain an average increase of 17 percent.

It has also been decided that the Labor Ministry will begin preparing a law on collective labor bargains. Finance Minister Cardoso has said that with the implementation of the URV, workers will no longer need to struggle to recover their lost purchasing power because this will no longer happen. In the future, they will struggle for real wage increases.

Minister Cardoso said the provisional measure to establish the URV, which is published today in the Official Gazette, includes mechanisms to stop abusive price increases. Prices will not be converted into URV's. The minister guaranteed that this does not represent a price freeze.

[Begin Cardoso recording] In case of price abuses, the provisional measure includes a provision that allows the Finance Ministry to summon private or public oligopolies and companies to explain why their prices surpassed the average price increase of the previous four months. We will then discuss how these oligopolies can transform their prices into URV's. Oligopolies are also free to resort to their industry associations to achieve a negotiated solution. There will be no price freeze, but there will be a mechanism to force those who commit price abuses to lower them in keeping with normal market costs. [end recording]

The finance minister said the economic program is supported by the whole government. He said that neither private or public sector workers will loose their purchasing power with the conversion of their salaries into URV's based on the average increases of the previous four months. The finance minister said the main objective of the URV is to recover the workers purchasing power.

The finance minister will today meet at 0830 [1130 GMT] with the chief editors of the main newspapers, radio and television stations to give a detailed explanation of all the changes that will come with the implementation of the economic stabilization plan and the URV in people's lives.

Use of Social Fund To Balance Budget Viewed

PY2802202994 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Feb 94 p 4

[Article by Carlos Alberto Sardenberg]

[Text] After two months negotiating the Social Emergency Fund (FSE), the federal government budget bill for 1994 is as follows: Revenues totalling $89.5 billion, expenditures totaling $81.8 billion, and a primary balance of $7.7 billion (without including the payment of interests). This is enough to pay real interests. Once the interests are paid, there will be a minimum operational balance of $2.2 million. In other words, there is the balanced budget deemed indispensable for the FHC [Fernando Henrique Cardoso] economic plan. The FSE, which stood at $16.1 billion in its original version, has been cut to $15.5. billion. As the FSE seeks to cover gaps in the budget, the $600 million that has been cut will have to be compensated by expenditure cutbacks.

Negotiations with Congress have resulted in an increase in the federal government general expenditures by $865 million. State and county administrations will benefit from that. In accordance with the original budget bill, they would have been allocated $11.7 billion. Now, they

will receive $13.3 billion. This is why governors and mayors supported voting for the FSE.

To compensate for what it gave the states and counties, the federal government earned $500 million by holding back federal public employees' income tax and reducing cost expenditures and investment by $700 million. The executive branch will have to reduce its expenditures by $500 million. The legislative and judicial branches will have to reduce theirs by another $200 million. In other words, the federal government will continue to live on bread and water.

From the federal revenue, the budget gained a net $833 million compared to its December version. There has been a positive reevaluation resulting from Cofins [Social Security Contributions] revenue and the results of the campaign against tax evasion. Another $900 million revenue has been obtained through the sale of National Bank for Economic and Social Development shares. It is a feasible budget, but its implementation will require close control by the Finance Ministry.

New Public, Private Salary Policies Outlined

PY2802204294 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] As of now, public and private sector salaries will be adjusted by the same rule, that is, the variation in the URV [real value unit]. The following are the new rules for adjustment of salaries:

Private sector salaries will be adjusted by the average value of the past four months. The value in URV's may not be lower than the February payment. Only the basic salary will be adjusted, excluding fringe benefits and additional holiday payments.

The minimum salary will also be adjusted by the average value. It will stand at about $64 at the end of March. On the date of actual payment, this amount will correspond to approximately 58,000 real cruzeiros.

Anyone hired less than four month ago will have his salary adjusted by the value paid to employees at the same level.

The same adjustment rule will apply to public servants' salaries, while in addition they will obtain an increase of 5 percent which will apply for February only. Paychecks will be issued in URV's, while income tax discounts will be calculated in UFIR's [reference fiscal units]. The FGTS [Severance Pay Fund] will be calculated in URV's, to be converted into real cruzeiros on the day it is deposited.

Workers who are dismissed without justification will be paid an additional amount equivalent to 50 percent of their salaries.

As of now, anyone hired will have his salary fixed in URV's.

With the new salary policy, public servant salaries will not be adjusted in March, as they would have been under the current policy. This is an initial loss which, according to Federal Administration Secretary Romildo Canhim, will be compensated for.

[Begin Canhim recording] This temporary loss will be practically neutralized by a government decision to grant a bonus in February and a small increase in the salary base. [end recording]

Compensation for salary deterioration for private sector workers will be arranged through free negotiations. This is progress, according to Labor Minister Walter Barelli, who unsuccessfully tried to set the minimum salary level at $100.

[Begin Barelli recording] The battle was hard, but compensation has been obtained. A decree will be issued today creating a commission to increase the minimum salary by 50 percent in real terms during the rest of this government's term. [end recording]

The commission created to find ways to increase the minimum salary has 60 days to conclude its work. Its members are representatives of the Labor, Social Security, Planning, and Finance Ministries, and of the Federal Administration Secretariat.

If Minister Barelli's proposal is accepted the minimum salary will stand at approximately $100 at the beginning of 1995. Today the minimum salary is equivalent to approximately 61,000 real cruzeiros.

Former President Says Economic Plan Will Harm Military

PY2802162994 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 25 Feb 94 p 9

[Article by Jorge de Freitas from Rio de Janeiro]

[Excerpts] Former President of the Republic Joao Baptista de Oliveira Figueiredo, who was in office from 1979 and 1985, said on 24 February during a barbecue at the Freight Companies Union in Rio de Janeiro, that the country is risking a social upheaval. "When the people are strong, no Armed Forces can resist them," he said. Figueiredo criticized Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso's economic plan, saying there will be huge loss of purchasing power. [passage omitted]

Figueiredo said he will support General Newton Cruz' candidacy for Rio de Janeiro governorship. Gen. Cruz headed the National Intelligence Service central agency during Figueiredo's presidency. Cruz will run for Rio de Janeiro governorship as a Democratic Social Party candidate.

Military Club Members View Lula, Coup Prospects

94SM0237A Sao Paulo ISTOE in Portuguese 9 Feb 94 pp 36, 37

[Article by Mario Chimanovitch]

[Text] The aroma of vatapa [Afro-Brazilian mush], the special of the day, drifts past the well-bred nostrils that lounge, utensils in hand, around this immense hall that can seat 500 at a time. Both the food—cheap and served in ample portions—and the air conditioning are perfect. Outside on Avenida Rio Branco, in the heart of Rio de Janeiro, the temperature on these dog days is nearly 40 degrees Celsius. People eat well here at the Military Club, a venerable association founded in 1887. This is its third headquarters in its long history, but although the building has a more modernistic appearance, the decor retains touches that are somewhat rococo. The atmosphere is still closely identified with the air that was breathed, politically and anthropologically speaking, in the early 1960's, when it was the meeting place for the officers who organized and commanded the so-called "Democratic Crusade" that led to the coup of 1964 and the deposition of Joao Goulart. The only difference from those somber days is that the messmates, now in their sixties, although they still employ a conspiratorial tone in their conversations can bark orders only to the waiters that glide around the large hall—gracefully and with alacrity, may we say, but armed only with harmless knives and forks. More out of professional duty than any ideological whims, they might venture opinions on the virtues of certain salads, of leafy appearance and well-suited to a *carioca* summer's diet.

Today, a Wednesday, the hall is full of members and their guests, supplemented by those who, although they have never been career military men, still have a deep affinity for the club and participate with their hearts and minds. At almost all the tables one hears debates, sometimes heated, especially when the subject is Brazilian politics. They despise, as they have every reason to, the blemishes that sully the National Congress. There are references to "robbers of the people," (this from a retired general, holding his fork aloft like a hypothetical trident from hell and using it to jab at the air, gesticulating as if he were ready to rummage through the entrails of corruption). "The nation has run out of patience, it can no longer put up with all these calamities and inertia. If that CPI [Congressional Investigating Committee] of theirs ends up doing nothing, as people say it will, it would be better to shut down the Congress," added—no less emphatically—a colonel and former member of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force. Brizola and Lula are also mentioned. And so passionately! The former is held responsible for the disastrous state of affairs in Rio de Janeiro. The latter is held responsible for what might happen after the presidential elections.

The discussions are interrupted by the sound of squealing brakes and shattering glass from the avenue below. Everyone runs to the balcony of the restaurant to see what happens. "That's the third fender-bender today, the traffic lights are not working...this is intolerable-...Where's the g...d...governor?" raved one colonel—unaware, surely, of the fact that the one who is supposed to take care of traffic signals is the mayor, Cesar Maia, not Governor Brizola. Short pause for dessert. The coconut pudding, passion fruit mousse, and condensed milk custard are all excellent. "As you can see, we here at the Military Club are a living and dynamic organization. We have a lot of influence. Those who think we are just a bunch of retired old men who come here to eat and play snooker are wrong," said General Nilton Cerqueira, club president and candidate for federal deputy on the PP [Progressive Party] ticket in Rio de Janeiro. A hard-liner, Cerqueira was the man who hunted Captain Lamarca through the backlands of Bahia until he finally gunned him down. He was also the man who when in command of the Rio Military Police, inexplicably refused to beef up the police force at Riocentro at the time of the famous attempted attack attributed to sectors of the so-called "intelligence community." Despite this background, the general, now 63, is an affable man. His professional and ideological past is unequivocal, but Cerqueira insists he is a legalist, although he acknowledges that Brazil is now going through a crucial phase that in some ways resembles the one that preceded the military movement of 1964.

"Yes, sir, there is indeed a rebellious sentiment among the military. This has been manifested in high levels of the military hierarchy, in professional contacts where senior officers are being pressured by the junior officers and the civilian public," General Cerqueira said, emphasizing that "one feels that there is an expectation of a military reaction," in the event the corrective measures demanded by the Budget CPI are frustrated. But, despite the "climate," there are no practical measures to be taken, at least for the time being. "After all," he pointed out, "if we were to overturn the tables at this point, what would be the ideal model for Brazil? We also have to remember that we don't have a Fujimori, and so...."

Cerqueira says it is in this direction that the Military Club is working, serving as a catalyst for opinions and influencing things to the extent possible—only to the extent possible. In other words, the "ideology" of the club is daring in theory but cautious in practice. It seems the club is essentially an active center for discussion. This means one should not be swayed by the more radical opinions one hears there. "The people in the reserve are more impassioned, but what we are really trying to do is to open up the spectrum of opinions so that the broad meaning of democracy can be discussed," Cerqueira insists. Concerning Lula, the general made another categorical statement: "Disapproval of the PT is strong among the officers and in the Military Club. I can state without fear of contradiction that the consensus within the Armed Forces repudiates his ideas." Cerqueira is unmoved by the argument that the PT's platform appears to be highly favorable to the Armed Forces;

it is against low pay scales and the "junking" of the institution. The general almost leapt out of his chair, and responded vehemently: "That does not mean that the PT and Lula are in a position to fulfill it."

Before saying goodbye, the general insists on taking the reporter and photographer into the Military Club museum. There in the gallery hang portraits of military men who served as president of Brazil, but no picture of General Ernesto Geisel. I asked Cerqueira about this absence, and he gave me to understand that it is intentional. The general opposed the political opening [*abertura*] launched by Geisel because "it was inopportune, done at the wrong time." Nothing more is said but, as we left the museum, a museum staffer whispered that "General Cerqueira does not like Geisel...."

Some of the members and regulars at the Military Club are not in tune with Nilton Cerqueira's ideas. General Diogo Figueiredo, for example, brother of the general and former president, does not think the Military Club speaks for the military. According to Diogo, the club has a historical tradition but that does not mean it can or should compete with political organizations. "That would be the same as the bank workers' union attempting to control the financial system." The general, incidentally, confesses that he thought it very strange that the president of Brazil would receive the president of the Military Club to talk about matters that are not within its bailiwick. "In my opinion, what is happening is a demoralization and a breakdown of discipline, since the Military Club is creating a sort of parallel hierarchy. The club is a nice place to meet old buddies and have lunch, but the institution is not at all representative."

Diogo Figueiredo is convinced there is no danger of a coup, since the Brazilian military is legalist. He recalls that what happened in 1964 was a breakdown of hierarchy and discipline in the barracks. If a problem of that nature were to arise today, then it would indeed be possible that the military chiefs might mobilize for action. The general believes, furthermore, that the Workers Party is a reality: "If Lula seeks out the military leaders to hear what they have to say, wonderful. If he seeks out the corporals and noncoms, then I would have to say I do not think he will take office." As for the problem of low salaries and junking of the Armed Forces, Diogo says that is no reason to start thinking of insurrection, because the military are now used to living with poverty. But they could never tolerate, for example, seeing national sovereignty scorned, sold out. "I am referring to the issue of the Amazon region," he concluded.

Another eminent representative of the hard line, General Sebastiao Jose de Castro, former commandant of the Military Region of the Southeast, takes a more moderate position now and acknowledges that in the past, the Military Club achieved great influence, but said this does not happen today. He said the club should defend the interests of the military as a class, but that the institution ought not become a sort of labor union. Like General Diogo Figueiredo, General Sebastiao Jose de Castro thinks the possibility of a coup is remote, and even less likely to be fomented or inspired by the Military Club. "See here, men who are in the reserve, as General Nilton Cerqueira and I are, no longer command the troops and haven't the clout for stirring up anything at all, much less carrying out a coup...such a person could not even boot out the president of the condominium he lives in...but-...for the sake of argument, suppose we could? We would carry out a coup to accomplish what? To seize a country that is in worse shape than in 1964?"

Chile

Aylwin Charges Christian Democrats With 'Moral Corruption'

PY2802224294 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1431 GMT 27 Feb 94

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 27 Feb (EFE)—Chile's Christian Democratic Party [DC], the leading political party in the country, which will on 11 March accede to the presidency for the third time, was this weekend shaken by a bitter controversy involving moral corruption.

A few days before stepping down from office, Chilean President Patricio Aylwin launched a thrust against his party, which has already been hit badly by the crumbling of the Italian Christian Democratic Party, which it has mirrored for a quarter of a century.

In an unexpected interview granted at the beginning of the month to MENSAJE, a magazine belonging to the Society of Jesus, Aylwin said that over the last few years the DC—of which he is a founding member—has lost its values, that its members' moral standards are lacking in fortitude, and that they are weak in stemming the world tide of corruption and individualism. He moreover said that his party runs the risk of transforming itself into a mere machine to assign power shares.

He further stated that there are card-carrying members of the DC who have joined the party not prompted by the eagerness to serve others, but rather because they see the ruling party as "a springboard" for access to highly remunerative government posts or to consolidate a political career for their personal benefit.

During an interview with the daily EL MERCURIO on 27 February, Senator Adolfo Zaldivar, one of the budding leaders of the DC, responded to Aylwin, commenting that he "was very much hurt" by the head of state's utterance.

Quite ironically, Zaldivar has harshly criticized his fellow party members. In the course of a speech given at a party meeting last July that was expressly released to the public, Zaldivar warned about "certain black storm clouds" looming largely in the party's future.

He disparaged what he termed certain people's individualistic "political careers," and warned against "some persons'" intentions of coming to "power for the sake of power."

Now, commenting on Aylwin's remarks, Zaldivar asserted: "I do not share his opinions in the least. They are unfair, and hurt us because of the person who has uttered them. I believe that he did so with the best of intentions (...), but the DC is not going through a crisis. He speaks about a loss of moral strength as motivation for the party's political action, and I do not share his views."

Notwithstanding this, Zaldivar—one of the incumbent vice presidents of the DC—once again acknowledges that there is "a certain trend toward building a political career for oneself. This tendency of power for power's sake must be overcome by another trend through which people seek to go into politics to serve others. Support should be withdrawn from those who want to have access to government posts for their own benefit."

Zaldivar believes that all Chilean political parties have their "technocratic and elitist caste" because it has managed to "infiltrate Chilean society." He even warns that unless this state of affairs changes, "social upheavals" may take place as in the city of Santiago del Estero in Argentina or in the Mexican state of Chiapas.

He pointed out: "We live in a continent that is already bleeding. This is why political leaders ought never to lose their sensitivity. And yet our feelings are hurt when they tell us that political parties only give out quotas of power. This is not so."

Zaldivar is nonetheless optimistic, and in the face of these "black storm clouds that blur the DC's path," he adds that "our values are extant. Their origin is to be found in the church's social doctrine. This constitutes a concept of the human being, of solidarity that derives from the Gospels (...) The values of Christianity and humanism are permanent in the history of mankind."

Frei Ratifies Finance Ministry Budget Director

PY2602013894 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Feb 94

[Excerpt] President-elect Eduardo Frei has ratified Jose Pablo Arrellano in his post as Finance Ministry budget director, at the request of future Finance Minister Eduardo Aninat.

Finance Minister-designate Eduardo Aninat and Budget Director Jose Pablo Arellano, who has been ratified in this post for the next administration, arrived at Frei's office on Hindenburg Street at noon. Arellano said that he will continue with an austerity policy in the fiscal field. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic Relations With Cambodia Reestablished

PY2402174794 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 17 Feb 94 p C2

[Excerpts] The Chilean Foreign Ministry has reported that a ceremony was held at the Chilean mission before the United Nations on 16 February, during which Chile and Cambodia resumed diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level after a 20-year severance.

The agreement was signed by Juan Somavia, the Chilean permanent representative before the United Nations, and Prince Sisowath Sirirath [name and title as published], his Cambodian counterpart. [passage omitted]

Both countries severed diplomatic relations 20 years ago.

A communique released by the Chilean Foreign Ministry states that notwithstanding this, "Chile condemned the invasion of Cambodia by Vietnam and supported all initiatives to disarm the feuding factions and re-establish a peaceful coexistence." [passage omitted]

Roundup of Economic Reports

PY2402201894

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic activities in Chile monitored through 24 February 1994.

The Central Bank's net international reserves increased by $342.8 million in January, of which $301.2 million was the result of the balance of payment surplus, while $41.6 million came from a revaluation of the reserves. Total reserves now amount to $10.1014 billion. (Santiago ESTRATEGIA in Spanish 8 Feb 94 p 4)

On 7 February the Central Bank reported that the trade balance registered a $1.5 million surplus during the first half of January, compared with the $32.8 million surplus registered in the same period last year. Exports totalled $355.7 million, and imports $354.2 million, a drop of 12.2 percent and 19.1 percent respectively compared with the same period in 1993. (Santiago ESTRATEGIA in Spanish 8 Feb 94 p 5)

The Central Bank has reported that the foreign debt amounted to $19.179 billion as of 31 December, an increase of 5.1 percent compared with 1992, when it was $18.242 billion. (Santiago ESTRATEGIA in Spanish 8 Feb 94 p 6)

The mining company El Indio will invest $100 million to increase its exploitation of the El Tambo gold deposit located in the mountainous area of the Fourth Region. El Indio Executive Vice President Ralph Mathson disclosed this information following a meeting with Fourth Region Intendant Renan Fuentealba. Mathson added that some 350 additional workers will be employed for the next six years. The company expects to obtain during this period 1.5 million ounces of gold and an unspecified

amount of silver and copper. (Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 19 Feb 94)

Colombia

De Greiff: U.S. Withholds Evidence on Drug Traffickers

PA0103013494 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Mar 94

[Report on statement by Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff on 28 February, place not given; from the "24 Hours" newscast—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Today, Prosecutor General Gustavo De Greiff said the antidrug policy is a failure. He insisted on the possiblity of legalization and defended the strategy of surrendering to justice. As for international cooperation, he said the United States prefers to withhold evidence against the Cali cartel drug traffickers out of mistrust.

[De Greiff] Because they think the Colombian strategy may not work and because one day those drug traffickers may suddenly turn up in other countries and then they will be able to apprehend them and take them to the United States, it is better to withold evidence.

[Announcer] He also said evidence collection in all countries is neccessary to effectively advance the war on drug trafficking and to be able to try drug traffickers because drug trafficking is an international offense that begins in the countries that produce it, continues in the countries that process and ship it, and winds up in the countries that consume it.

[De Greiff] To be able put in jail those we believe to be mobsters and those the media call mobsters, they have to help us and cooperate by submitting evidence. Otherwise, we will not be able to realize the goal and....

Further on Remarks

PA2802230394 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2112 GMT 28 Feb 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 28 Feb (DPA)—Today, Colombian Prosecutor General Gustavo de Greiff said the U.S. Government is not interested in supplying evidence to condemn the chiefs of the drug trafficking mafia because it does not trust Colombian justice. In this manner, De Greiff reaffirmed the difficulties his office has encountered in its attempt to collect evidence in the United States against the main "capos" of the Cali cartel, several of whom have expressed their desire to surrender and collaborate with authorities. "Colombia is being deserted. The United States is not interested in collaborating with Colombian justice although there are judicial exchange agreements," De Greiff pointed out.

The prosecutor general added that U.S. authorities are "withholding evidence" to reveal later should the mafiosos be captured in their country without taking into account that several of them are thinking about surrendering in Colombia. In the opinion of the director of the Colombian justice system, the government in Washington should change its strategy of withholding evidence and "open its doors" to criminals who wish to surrender and supply valuable information to defeat drug trafficking.

De Greiff confirmed that his office is still in touch with lawyers who claim to represent Gilberto Rodriguez, charged with being the leader of the Cali cartel, as part of a rapprochement process, started last year and intensified in the past weeks. Talks between De Greiff and these lawyers have developed so smoothly that the prosecutor general and the media are not ruling out the possibility that Rodriguez, who is known by the alias of "El Ajedrecista," might surrender in mid-March. According to official reports, Rodriguez wants to take advantage of the decrees President Cesar Gaviria signed in 1990 offering substantial sentence reductions to drug traffickers and terrorists who surrender, confess to at least one crime, and effectively collaborate with the authorities.

Spokesmen for the Prosecutor General's Office claim that one of the difficulties facing this process is the lack of evidence to indict the mafiosos because many of the charges made in the past were leveled by the media and cannot be confirmed. Three men charged with being Cali cartel leaders appeared before the Prosecutor General's Office in mid-January but were not held because there were no warrants for their arrest.

Governor Denies U.S. Troops Buried Toxic Wastes

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[Telephone interview with Valle del Cauca Governor Carlos Holguin Sardi by Dario Arizmendi; from "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast—live]

[Text] [Arizmendi] At 1100 today, the last 40 U.S. soldiers and engineers will leave Juanchaco for their U.S. base in Panama. For this reason, we have called Valle Governor Carlos Holguin Sardi at this time of the morning, 0702 to be exact, to ask him about the truth to television reports by the "TV Today" and "AM-PM" newscasts. According to these two newscasts, the U.S. troops that spent 60 days in Valle del Cauca Department reportedly buried toxic waste.

Mr. Governor, good day. What is the basis for these televised reports?

[Holguin Sardi] Good morning. Believe me, I am very surprised by all of this. I was accompanied by Admiral Ross and Major General Jesus Maria Vergara, commander of the Army's 3d Division, in Juanchaco on

Friday, and no one, absolutely no one, expressed any concern or commented on any rumors or hearsay about the report disseminated by the television newscasts. In fact, television reporters were there, and I do not know when they received such reports or why they failed to ask us about them there. Had they asked us, we would have at least found out about these claims. It seems that this is a new episode in the soap opera revolving around the presence of U.S. soldiers in Juanchaco. Nevertheless, the report is baseless. I repeat, no one mentioned such a tale to me.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Governor, the engineers of the U.S. military forces came to build a school, a clinic, and to help work on the Juanchaco-Ladrilleros road. All of these projects were left incomplete. Do you or the national government have a plan to complete the projects so that the walls built by the U.S. engineers—who caused so much controversy by their very presence—will not be left abandoned?

[Holguin Sardi] The clinic needs plumbing and electrical work; everything else is done. The Colombian Army and Navy, which are building the nearby Juanchaco airstrip, will oversee the completion of the work. The school is a bit behind schedule. It needs plumbing and electrical work, as well as part of the roof and the inside walls that divide the various classrooms. About 80 percent of each of the two projects is complete. As I already mentioned, the Army and Navy will be in charge of completing the projects. It is estimated that 20 Navy workers will finish off in one month what 60 soldiers did in eight days in terms of building the school and the clinic.

[Arizmendi] Other media have reported that another contingent of U.S. troops will return to Colombia within two months to conduct an operation similar to the one just completed in Juanchacho. What do you know about this?

[Holguin Sardi] Absolutely nothing. After what has happened, I do not believe there will be new similar experiments. The fact that the deadline originally set in the agreement for this project was not extended is an indication that there is no interest in having U.S. troops return for this type of work in Colombia.

[Arizmendi] After having described the report about possible toxic wastes as a soap opera, will any action be taken to deny this report?

[Holguin Sardi] Yes, it will be very important for the media that obtained the report to remember where they got it from. [Words indistinct] keeping the source a secret. Notwithstanding, if any citizens know anything about this report, it is very important for them to inform us about it in order that we can conduct the relevant investigations on such a terrifying and unpleasant story.

I repeat, however, I think it is only a soap opera. No one in his right mind thinks that such a thing could happen. The Pacific naval forces maintained very strict and complete vigilance over the soldiers' activities. There were many opportunities to oversee what they were doing. No one could prove that they were doing something other than building the school and the clinic. They were always concentrating on their work. Therefore, I repeat, it is only a baseless rumor, a soap opera. However, if we are informed about where, who, and how, we would be willing to begin the relevant investigations.

City Mayor Celebrates Withdrawal of U.S. Troops

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[From "Caracol's 0600 to 0900" newscast]

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—(Gustavo Alvarez Larrazabal), the controversial mayor of the city of Tulua, has celebrated the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the Juanchaco area and issued a special decree calling for the full hoisting of the flag, which was at half-mast up to today.

He has announced simultaneously he will preside over a ceremony at the main plaza to hoist the flag to the top of the mast at the City Mayor's Office. The flag had been hoisted at half-mast when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers arrived.

In the municipal decree, the city mayor said he trusts foreign soldiers will never again arrive there without complying with legal requirements.